'Power restored to 97 pct. of Saipan, 87 pct. to Tinian' PAGE 3
Twins in hit-and-run, rob try get 3 years in prison. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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75¢

GAO says some CW workers would benefit from HR 560

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The U.S. Government and Accountability Office reports some foreign nationals may also qualify to gain CNMI resident status under the proposed H.R. 560, which is actually intended to help those who are under the CNMI categorical parole program that was discontinued by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services last December.

See GAO on Page 4

WOMEN'S MONTH
Surrounded by female representatives of different groups, acting governor Arnold I. Palacios signs the CNMI Women's Month proclamation at the CNMI Governor's Office conference room last Thursday.

See story on Page 9

JON PEREZ

FAC increases this month

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s fuel adjustment charge in March has gone up, according to a notice last Friday.

CUC says it has been notified by its fuel supplier, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc., that there has been an increase in the average international fuel prices which will affect CUC's fuel adjustment charge.

As a result, the current FAC rate of $0.17624 per kWh has increased to $0.19213 per kWh effective March 1, 2019.

Residential customers who use

See FAC on Page 4

Bird population takes hit following Yutu

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The number of forest birds in the CNMI is believed to have taken a massive hit following Super Typhoon Yutu.

According to wildlife supervisor Jill Liske-Clark of the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife, the division expects to see a massive drop in the number of forest birds in the CNMI in their upcoming bird survey.

See BIRD on Page 4

CUC officials: No contract yet for purchase of Rota generator

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Manglona

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair Miranda V. Manglona and CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho have stated that there is no signed contract yet between CUC and a private company for an emergency purchase of a power genera-

See CUC on Page 4

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair Miranda Villagomez Manglona presides over the board's special meeting at CUC conference room last Friday. Manglona denied that a contract has already been signed with a company for the emergency purchase of a power generator for Rota.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

INSIDE

LOCAL
The crew of the Coast Guard cutter *Sequoia* returned to Apra Harbor, Guam, last Monday.

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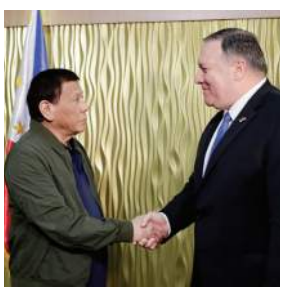

ASIA
U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is concerned about Chinese actions in South China Sea.

PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE
"Riverdale" and "Beverly Hills, 90210" star Luke Perry has been hospitalized.

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Local

DFW gets over $400K to expand Tinian monarch studies

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The University of Guam awarded the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife a subgrant of over $400,000 to conduct further research on the Tinian monarch.

The Tinian monarch, although endemic to the island of Tinian, is a species of bird that still remains a bit of a mystery.

According to CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife supervisor Jill Liske-Clark, the division recently received $410,000 to conduct a study on the Tinian monarch.

"…It's a really large sum of money for us," she said.

Liske-Clark said the money would give the division the opportunity to obtain more information about the Tinian monarch and it would also aid in gathering data about the current population of birds on Tinian.

"We'll learn just a lot more in detail about the Tinian monarch because not a lot is known about it, so it's going to be a great opportunity to really learn in detail what it needs and where it live. …It's going to fund some island-wide surveys that will allow us to see…how the forest bird populations are doing on Tinian," she said.

The only information known about the Tinian monarch is that it is a small flycatcher bird that is about 15 centimeters (6 inches) from bill to tail. Tinian monarchs are dull with light rufous underparts, olive-brown upperparts, and dark chocolate brown wings and tail.

The Tinian monarch lives mainly in forested habitat where it shelters, breeds, and forages for insects. There are various types of forest on Tinian, including native limestone, secondary-mixed, and nonnative *tangan tangan* forest, all of which are inhabited by the monarch. Individuals breed year-round, beginning at about two years of age and live around 10 years.

The Tinian monarch was nearly listed on the U.S Endangered Species Act list but findings by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service determined that the bird is thriving on Tinian.

According to a summary of the findings, the U.S Fish and Wildlife evaluated all relevant factors to determine whether there was warrant to list the Tinian monarch as an endangered species. The five factors evaluated include present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range; overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes; disease or predation; the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or other natural or manmade factors affecting its existence.

The evaluation found that potential stressors of the Tinian monarch include the invasive brown tree snake and civilian and military development on the island. Fortunately, precautions taken to prevent brown tree snakes have been efficiently working and Tinian's forest has proven its resiliency over the years.

About 800 availed of OWWA services

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

About 800 Filipino citizens on Saipan were served yesterday at the Kristo Rai Parish Social Hall during the year's first consular outreach of the Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam.

The first day of the outreach program yesterday yielded about 800 Filipinos either renewing or enrolling their membership for the Philippine Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

"We were overwhelmed," said OWWA board secretariat head Evelyn Llanes, who is representing OWWA throughout the three-day consular outreach. "We are expecting similar numbers in the next two days of the outreach program."

ERWIN ENCINARES
The first day of the first consular outreach program of the Philippine Consular General in Agana, Guam at the Kristo Rai Parish Social Hall served 132 passport renewal applications for the day.

According to Llanes, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs predicted that about only 500 Filipino citizens would avail of OWWA services over the duration of her three-day visit.

"We checked the history of the last time OWWA sent a representative, and it totaled to about 2,000 enrollees and renewals for the year," she said, noting that the last time OWWA sent a representative to Saipan was back in 2017.

According to Philippine Consul to Guam Mark Hamoy, they were able to reach their target of 140 passport renewal processing slots for the day, minus the few no-shows who registered.

"We were able to process 132 passport applications, one lost ePassport replacements, five extensions of validity, two legal documents notarial services, one report of birth, one report of marriage, and three dual citizenship petitions filed," he said.

Altogether, Hamoy noted that the outreach program yielded 145 transactions for the first day.

He noted that similar numbers may be expected in the remaining two days of the consular outreach.

"The passport renewals are more predictable because we have pre-assigned [schedules]," he said. "Since we are supposed to have a full slate per day, we are expecting 280 more [passport renewal] applicants within [today] and [tomorrow], he said.

"We are doing pretty well for what we came here to do," he said, given that it was the first consular outreach in 2019.

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Man in 'ice' trafficking case asks for no trial

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who was allegedly found in possession and trafficking of methamphetamine is seeking a non-trial disposition of his case.

Benjamin Jason Inos Manglona, 38, was charged with illegal possession and trafficking of a controlled substance following a routine inspection at the commuter terminal of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport back in 2017.

At a hearing last week before Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja, defense attorney Matthew Gregory said Manglona is asking for a non-trial disposition of his case.

According to an online source, a non-trial disposition request is defined as a request to somehow resolve the case without a trial. It could be anything from a guilty plea agreement to withdrawal of the charges by the prosecutor.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds, who appeared for the government, did not oppose the request.

Naraja scheduled Manglona for a status conference on April 23 at 1:30pm.

Court information state that Manglona was stopped at the airport commuter terminal on April 25, 2017, after he was found in possession of methamphetamine or "ice" on his departure flight to Rota. The drugs were allegedly discovered following a routine pat-down inspection.

On April 28, 2017 Manglona was released to a third-party custodian after posting a property bond.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Belated happy birthday to former Viralicci now Jigz Barber Shop 'n Beauty Salon stylist Patrick Kapaw-an. He celebrated his birthday yesterday, March 3. More birthdays to come!

'Power restored to 97 pct. of Saipan, 87 pct. of Tinian'

Since Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation last Oct. 24 and 25, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has already energized or restored power to 97 percent of their overall customers on Saipan, according to executive director Gary P. Camacho last Friday.

He also disclosed that about 87 percent of their customers on Tinian already have power.

Last Friday alone, 13 wooden power poles were replaced with concrete ones along Airport Road on Saipan as part of their hardening/resiliency program.

"We are just waiting for the materials. …Almost all customers are [now] energized, those that can be [connected]," he said.

There are still a number of customers that cannot be provided with power as their houses or buildings are damaged or have not been repaired yet, Camacho explained.

He said that, soon after Yutu, CUC used a lot of salvaged materials for temporary power and these are the ones they need to go back and replace.

"And that's the materials we're waiting on to arrive," he said, adding that a lot of areas have been energized from used materials.

It is the same with Tinian's situation.

Camacho said a lot of salvaged materials were used and that they are waiting for new materials to arrive to replace them.

Camacho said those used materials are only temporary and they are now waiting for new materials to arrive to finalize the restoration.

He said the use of salvaged materials is only temporary because it can cause problems such as voltage issue, among other things.

"So, the restoration continues and, on Tinian, it's the same thing; however, it's now at 87 percent," he said.

The executive director said a number of salvaged materials and wires were used on Tinian and they have to be replaced.

"We're moving forward in order to ensure that we have a safe or an efficient and effective overhead power supply system," Camacho said.

Camacho had earlier stated they anticipate to complete the power restoration in the latter part of February on both Saipan and Tinian. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Precinct 2 forum on Wednesday

The "Our Sense of Place" forum, hosted by Precinct 2 Rep. Tina Sablan, is set for Wednesday, March 6, at WSR Elementary School cafeteria, starting at 5:30pm.

This free public forum is a follow-up to the meeting Sablan held last October, and will include a presentation of interactive maps developed for the precinct, and a summary of valued places and concerns highlighted by community members. This week, participants will be asked to help prioritize the issues they see as important for restoring and revitalizing their villages.

Precinct 2 includes Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, Fina Sisu, As Lito, and As Perdido. All are welcome! For more information or to RSVP, contact Sablan's office at 664-8829 or email rep.sablanc@cnmileg.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

Military trainings set

ASAN, Guam—Military units participating in COPE North 2019 will conduct training from 8am to 7pm on March 4-8 at the island of Farallon de Medinilla.

Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 and the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit will conduct training at the former Adm. Nimitz Golf Course in Barrigada during the following dates and times:

- Noon to 11:55pm, March 4
- Noon to 4pm, March 5-18

The Navy will also conduct an open-ocean, live-fire gunnery exercise from 10am to 11:55pm on March 7.

Military units participating in Surface Warfare Advanced Tactical Training 2019 will conduct training from midnight to 11:59pm, March 7-10, at Warning Area 517.

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island.

The public should be advised that routine helicopter training often accompanied with the use of blanks can occur during training at the former Adm. Nimitz Golf Course.

The open-ocean exercise will take place within a 10-nautical mile radius of the following coordinates: 13° 26"N/145° 08"E, 13° 42"N/144° 36"E. It is recommended the public, commercial pilots, fishermen and marine tour operators stay clear from this area during the dates and times indicated.

Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks will be open for public use. W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles and laser exercises.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training. ***(PR)***

PH consulate holds outreach on Saipan

The Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam, in coordination with Philippine Honorary Consul to CNMI Glicerio Arago, is conducting a consular outreach mission on Saipan until March 5, from 8am to 4pm, at the Kristo Rai Parish in Garapan.

Biometrics and personal data capturing for ePassport applications will be done according to schedule. All ePassport applicants are reminded to check the list so that they are aware of their respective schedules.

Those who are on the list of ePassport applicants are reminded to:

1. show up at the venue on the date and time indicated in the schedule; and
2. wear proper attire (i.e. with collar and sleeves)

For consular services, including passport renewal, that require civil registration documents (e.g. birth certificate and marriage certificate), documents from the Philippine Statistics Authority or from former National Statistics Office will be accepted.

Note that personal appearance is required for all ePassport applications.

For confirmation and clarification, call (670) 233-6293 and ask for Mel Santos or email eppt.pcgagana@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

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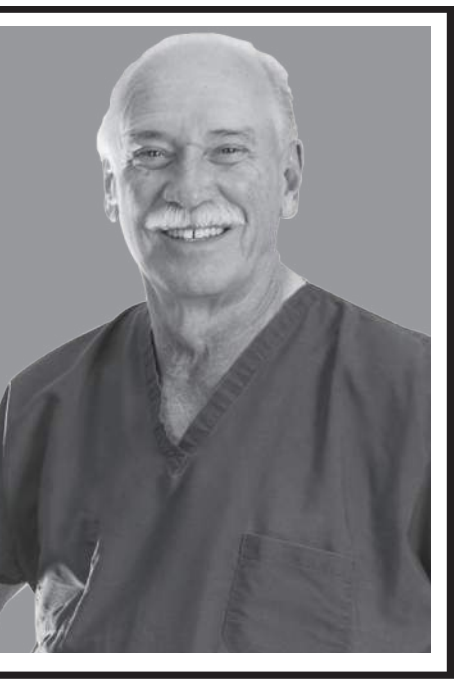

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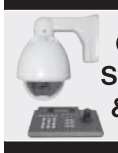

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US convenes 902 consultations with CNMI

WASHINGTON, D.C.— This week U.S. federal officials convened the first meeting with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, led by Gov. Ralph Torres, in a formal Section 902 consultations process. The process will be focused on Department of Homeland Security discretionary parole policies that impact the CNMI.

"I was pleased to convene a meeting with colleagues from the departments of Homeland Security, Labor, State, Defense, the White House, and the CNMI to consider policies that might impact tourism and economic development in the territory," said Doug Domenech, Department of the Interior assistant secretary, Insular and International Affairs. "I look forward to helping further the next steps toward a fruitful discussion."

The consultation process is authorized by Section 902 of the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, and codified in 48 U.S.C. § 1801, which defines the unique relationship between the CNMI and the United States.

In response to a request from Torres invoking the Section 902 consultations process to discuss discretionary parole policies, President Donald Trump appointed Domenech to be the special representative on behalf of the United States.

The CNMI, formerly a part of the U.S. administered Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in the Pacific, last invoked the formal 902 Consultations process in 2016, focused on immigration, labor, and proposed military activities in the CNMI. A report on that process was submitted to the White House in January 2017. A follow-up meeting is expected to be held on Saipan in the CNMI. ***(PR)***

Academic journal highlights Guam nursing shortage

An article written by University of Guam nursing faculty has been published in the January/March 2019 edition of *Nursing Administration Quarterly*.

UOG dean Margaret Hattori-Uchima and associate professor Kathryn Wood from UOG's School of Nursing & Health Sciences co-authored the article, "Nursing Leadership in Guam," which brings attention to the significant health disparities as well as the critical nursing workforce shortage in Guam and the Micronesian region.

"We wanted to spread the word about Guam and our region and the many efforts by nursing leaders to improve health for our islands and our people," said Hattori-Uchima, who was asked to write an article after attending a conference two years ago.

The article states there is a need for strong nursing leadership to improve the health infrastructure. It shares how nurse leaders in many organizations are working to implement solutions in the islands but that increased collaborations are needed to address health issues common in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands as well as global issues that may particularly affect this region, such as epidemics, infectious diseases, migration, and climate change.

Nursing Administration Quarterly is a peer-reviewed journal that provides nursing administrators with up-to-date information on effective management in health care settings.

"The current edition of NAQ is about the challenges and triumphs experienced by nurses in various countries as we advocate and care for others, including the most vulnerable," said *NAQ* editor Kathy Sanford. ***(PR)***

GAO

From Page 1

In his testimony before the House Natural Resources Committee hearing last week, GAO International Affairs and Trade director Dr. David Gootnick said that foreign nationals that were working using a CNMI-Only Transitional Worker permit since 2015 could also qualify to earn CNMI resident status if H.R. 560 is signed into law on or before June 30.

H.R. 560 is being proposed as a legislative fix for those who would lose immigration status by June 30 this year due to USCIS' decision to discontinue the CNMI categorical parole program. That includes spouses and immediate relatives of citizens of Freely Associated States and spouses or IRs of U.S. citizens, parents of U.S. citizen children who are either under or over 21 years old, CNMI permanent residents, and stateless individuals.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), who presided over the committee hearing as vice chairman for Insular Affairs, introduced H.R. 560 to give legal resident status to those who will be affected by the USCIS decision.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, Department of the Interior-Office of Insular Affairs director Nikolao Pula, and former CNMI public auditor Michael S. Sablan also provided testimony on Kilili Sablan's H.R. 560.

Michael Sablan testified on behalf of Triple J Enterprises, not on behalf of Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. as earlier reported.

Triple J Enterprises is one of the members of the NMBAC business group where Sablan is the Finance and Administration vice president. Alex Sablan is the NMBAC president.

Kilili Sablan said H.R. 560 would reverse USCIS' decision and give CNMI permanent resident status to affected individuals, along with some long-term workers and investors. "I want to make clear that, as with my previous bill on this subject, H.R. 560 only covers people who were lawfully admitted to the Marianas and who have remained lawfully present throughout their time of residence: No amnesty."

"H.R. 560 provides no new eligibility for public benefits and adds no new societal costs. Instead, by stabilizing the population and the workforce, H.R. 560 will have a positive economic effect."

Jenniffer González Colón, Puerto Rico's resident commissioner to the U.S. House of Representatives and a ranking GOP member in the Insular Affairs Committee, said the hearing gives the territories a voice. "There are more than 3.5 million strong U.S. citizens from territories. We are not just an afterthought but also an important matter for the U.S. so that we are properly heard when crafting federal policies or legislation."

Gootnick said H.R. 560 would give CNMI residency status to CW-1 workers that were continuously employed from 2015 to 2018. "Under H.R. 560, foreign nationals who meet additional eligibility requirements could be eligible to receive CNMI resident status if they were admitted annually to the CNMI as a CW-1 worker in fiscal years 2015 through 2018."

"GAO's preliminary analysis of [U.S. Department of Homeland Security] data found that 2,875 (about 32 percent) of 8,995 workers with CW-1 permits for fiscal year 2018 had maintained continuous employment each fiscal year since 2015 and would be eligible to seek residency status under H.R. 560, if other conditions of H.R. 560 were met."

He added that GAO also recorded last year that over 80 percent of long-term workers in the CNMI were from the Philippines.

H.R. 560 would also establish CNMI resident status for CNMI permanent residents at the start of the transition period of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, IRs of U.S. citizens at the start of the CW-1 program, the group of stateless individuals, and in-home caregivers.

The GAO report said that, based on their collected data, there are 1,039 individuals in one of the terminated categories who were living in the CNMI at the end of 2018. "The vast majority of these individuals are IRs or U.S. citizens."

"USCIS data also showed that 90 percent of paroled were parents or spouses of U.S. citizens. Under H.R. 560, some of these individuals may be able to apply for CNMI permanent resident status."

FAC

From Page 1

500 kWh of power per month will pay approximately $7.95 more in their monthly billing.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric kWh rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This base rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5 percent differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

CUC first instituted the Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the electric rate. ***(PR)***

BIRD

From Page 1

"Although we expect those numbers to be down, we also expect a relatively quick recovery once the forest starts recovering, so we hope in, like, a couple of years, it will be back to where they were at, provided there are no more typhoons," she said.

Liske-Clark said the division has seen a drop in the number of birds in the CNMI after Super Typhoon Soudelor in 2015 and they expect to see the same thing again.

"Following Soudelor, we saw that and, like I said, we saw those populations come right back. A year or two, they were right back to where they were before Soudelor and we now expect the same thing after Yutu," she said.

The species expected to be affected the most are CNMI forest birds like the golden white-eye, bridled white-eye, Mariana kingfisher, rufous fantail, honeyeaters, etc.

Liske-Clark said that birds are no different than humans when it comes to major storms.

"No one comes to rebuild their homes. They have to rebuild their own and they have to wait for the forest to recover, so when typhoons move through, they flatten all that forest. We don't think there's a lot of direct mortality to the birds. I'm sure there must be a few, but the impact is more in that the place where they built nests is flattened, the place where they find shelter, the place where they find food, all of those things become very difficult for many months after the typhoon so I think the biggest reason that the population drops is that you have the natural mortality, the birds that were going to die anyway, but you don't have the nesting so you don't have the new birds coming in to replenish the population, so the total size goes down," she said.

The division does regular surveys on a quarterly basis on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, according to Liske-Clark.

"We go out four times a year to the same points on the ground, scattered across the islands, and record the birds that we see are at that point and, by repeating those same methods, same methods, and this goes back 15 years, we can calculate the trends for the population on island," she said.

The division's next survey is scheduled for April.

CUC

From Page 1

tor for Rota.

In separate interviews last Friday, Manglona and Camacho both expressed confidence that they are moving in the right direction for this emergency purchase of generator, as they are being guided by the Office of the Attorney General.

Manglona said they had explained at their last board meeting why they had to do an emergency purchase procurement for the generator to be shipped and installed on Rota, which has been encountering power supply problem.

"As for the winning bidder, I leave it up to the selection bid committee. They are the ones looking into that," Manglona said.

She reiterated Camacho's assurance that CUC is working with the OAG on this matter.

The OAG's Civil Division chief, Christopher M. Timmons, attended the CUC board's special meeting and executive session last Friday.

"What happened in the past, I have no idea. I don't want to bring it up. It's in the past. Let them deal with that. But what we are doing now is we are dealing with it in a separate way," Manglona said.

She said the contract has not gotten to her and that she believes it is still with the selection committee or with Camacho.

"But I haven't seen it yet. I will leave it up to the executive director," she said.

Manglona said she has no comment as to Rep. Edwin K. Propst's (Ind-Saipan) recent statement that questioned why the CUC selection committee changed its decision in identifying a winning bidder and chose International Bridge and Construction Marianas Inc.

"We are working with the Office of the Attorney General," Manglona said.

Camacho assured that they are guided by the OAG, which represents them. "I am happy for that. And we are getting guidance from them," he said.

He emphasized that there has been no contract signed or awarded to International Bridge.

He pointed out that the CUC board of directors approves contracts.

"Who said we awarded? … There is no contract [yet] with this engine on Rota. …No contract," Camacho said, adding that the only thing that has been agreed or approved is the agreement with Rota Resort.

"That's the only thing at this point. There is no winning bidder," Camacho said.

Citing an "electric power problem" on Rota, the CUC board of directors declared an emergency situation for the island last Jan. 28 in order to establish a reserve power capacity.

The CUC board had to issue the declaration in order for Rota CUC to be able to connect to the Rota Resort, while they are in the process of fixing the power engine at the Songsong Power Plant.

Propst recently questioned an alleged emergency purchase contract that was reportedly awarded to International Bridge, a company connected to a similar deal with CUC about two years ago that raised a lot of red flags.

International Bridge vice president Robert W. Toelkes last week responded to Propst's allegations by stating, among other things, that their family had been accepting and completing construction projects in the Marianas and other Pacific Islands.

Twins in hit-and-run, rob try get 3 years in prison

The twin brothers who were charged over an attempted robbery-snatching and hit-and-run involving a car that mowed down a female tourist along Beach Road in Garapan last year pleaded guilty last Friday and were slapped with a three-year prison term.

Anthony Laatman Muña, 23, pleaded guilty to attempted robbery, and accident involving injury/failure to stop.

Vincent Laatman Muna, 23, pleaded guilty to attempted robbery.

The Muñas were sentenced to five years imprisonment, all suspended except for three years.

They will then be placed on three-year probation. If they violate their probation, they may be re-incarcerated for the suspended balance of two years of their sentence, said Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph M. Camacho.

The brothers were ordered to each pay $25 in court fee and $120 a year for probation fee.

Vicente Muña, through counsel Mark Scoggins, asked to be allowed to start serving his sentence at a later time but Camacho denied it.

Assistant attorney general Robert "Charles" Lee appeared for the government. Assistant public defender Jean Pierre Nogues appeared as counsel for Anthony Muña, while Scoggins served as court-appointed counsel for Vincent Muña.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Anthony Muña with attempted robbery (dangerous weapon or bodily injury), conspiracy to commit robbery (dangerous weapon or bodily injury), reckless driving (bodily injury), and accident involving injury: failure to stop. The charges carry a possible maximum sentence of 16 years in prison.

Vincent Muña was charged with attempted robbery (dangerous weapon or bodily injury), and conspiracy to commit robbery (dangerous weapon or bodily harm). The charges carry a possible maximum sentence of 15 years.

On Jan. 30, 2019, the OAG filed an amended its charges against Anthony Muña, where he faced a possible maximum sentence of six years. The charges against Vincent Muña was also amended where he faced a maximum sentence of five years.

The Muñas then signed a plea deal.

According to police, the Muña brothers were driving a rented vehicle down Beach Road on June 8, 2018, when they tried to snatch the purses of two female tourists who were walking along the shoulder of the road.

Anthony Muña was the driver and Vicente Muña was in the car's front passenger's seat.

Upon seeing two female pedestrians—Yao Yang and Yanbo Wu—the Muña brothers agreed that Anthony would drive close to the pedestrians and Vicente would reach from the car and grab the purses from the two.

Anthony Muña did a U-turn of the vehicle and then drove toward the tourists. Vicente Muña reached from the car and grabbed one of the tourist's purses. However, Vicente Muña was unsuccessful.

Anthony Muña hit the tourist with the car, causing injuries to her. He did not stop the car.

A video from a nearby store's surveillance camera captured the hit-and-run incident.

Both Muñas confessed their involvement to police and named other suspects who also committed purse snatching robberies in Garapan. The prosecution said the information proved valuable in solving these robberies.

As part of the plea deal and in recognition of their cooperation with police, the OAG agreed not to charge them in relation to another robbery that occurred on June 7, 2018, in which a woman was the alleged victim.

In an interview on June 11, 2018, the Muña brothers allegedly told police they were smoking marijuana inside the car prior to attempting to snatch the purse of the tourist, who was walking with a friend on Beach Road near Mascot Auto Parts in southern Garapan.

Anthony Muña allegedly admitted being the driver of the car and that he had smoked six joints of marijuana that morning shortly after the hit-and-run incident.

In the hit-and-run case, the victim suffered multiple abrasions to the body and head injuries. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Reward for info on tagged fish

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Division of Fish and Wildlife is offering prizes and rewards to fishermen who call in tagged fish that they catch.

According to fisheries biologist Trey Dunn, the reward for information on tagged emperor (*mafute*) fish will only be given away during the tagging study period that will conclude in July.

Dunn said the rewards include a T-shirt and an entry into their raffle.

The fisherman will be able to take home their catch after DFW gets the data needed like growth, weight, length, etc.

Fish will have a visible pink tag near the fin on top of the fish. The tag will include a tag number and a phone number for DFW's Fisheries section.

Upon contacting DFW Fisheries, fishermen should provide the tag number, date caught, location caught, length, and weight of the fish.

Fisheries is conducting the fish tagging study on food fish in the Saipan lagoon. The purpose of the study is to determine the contribution of common reef food fish to adjacent commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries.

Application period open for Head Start program

The Head Start/Early Head Start Program is now accepting applications for school year 2019-2020.

The CNMI PSS Head Start/Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Program offers preschool and infant-toddler programs for eligible children and families. Head Start serves children 3 to 4 years old and Early Head Start serves children 6 weeks to 36 months old. The program does not charge fees for enrollment.

The center-based program includes developmentally appropriate learning, family engagement, nutritious meals, health services and support for children with special needs. Head Start aged children do not need to be potty trained.

Printed applications are available at all Head Start/Early Head Start centers and offices on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Additional locations to pick up an application: on Saipan at NAP, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, WIC, CHCC, NMHC, H.O.M.E. Visiting Program, Kagman Health Clinic, DYS, DCCA Child Care Office, and Medicaid Office; on Tinian at Tinian Health Center; and on Rota at Rota Health Center.

Application deadline is June 14, 2019, to be considered for an enrollment slot at the beginning of the school year. The program will continue to accept applications on an ongoing basis after the initial recruitment period.

Applications need to be submitted in person by the child's parent or legal guardian at the following locations:

- Saipan: Head Start Office, Building 1256, Capitol Hill
- Tinian: Tinian Head Start Center
- Rota: Sinapalo Head Start Center

For more information, call 322-1739, 664-3762 or email hsehs@cnmipss.org. ***(PR)***

CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
AMERICA'S SBDC CNMI
CDA COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Federal Contracting Bootcamp Part 1

Tuesday, March 5, 2019 @ 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Tinian Public Library

Presented by:
Boris Hertslet, Program Manager

Each year, the federal government awards hundreds of billions of dollars in federal contracts to business to meet the needs of federal agencies and the military. This training will cover the steps needed in order to do business with the federal government:

- **DUNS Number**
- **SAM Registration**

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Register at https://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/events/4324
For more information, contact the CNMI SBDC at 664-3018 or www.pacificsbdc.com.

Disclaimer: The Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network (PISBDCN) at the University of Guam – School of Business & Public Administration is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with at least two weeks advance notice. For arrangements, please contact Lorie Pangilinian, P.O. Box 5795 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, and Tel: (670)664-3018, or Email lorie@pacificsbdc.com. Services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
AMERICA'S SBDC CNMI
CDA COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Federal Contracting Bootcamp Part 2

Tuesday, March 5, 2019 @ 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Tinian Public Library

Presented by:
Boris Hertslet, Program Manager

Each year, the federal government awards hundreds of billions of dollars in federal contracts to business to meet the needs of federal agencies and the military. This training will cover the steps needed in order to do business with the federal government:

- **FedBizOpps**
- **Capabilities Statement**

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Register at https://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/events/4325
For more information, contact the CNMI SBDC at 664-3018 or www.pacificsbdc.com.

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Japanese students donate Yutu relief goods

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A group of Japanese students presented a donation to the CNMI in response to the Super Typhoon Yutu devastation in late October 2018.

The Japan Youth Memorial Association, a Tokyo-based Japanese non-profit organization, announced last Tuesday that they would be sending a team of volunteer members to Saipan and Tinian last week to donate disaster relief funds collected to assist in the recovery.

According to a statement from the JYMA, they would be visiting both the Saipan Mayor's Office and the Tinian Mayor's Office last Friday.

"After hearing the news of Super Typhoon Yutu and the destruction it had caused in the CNMI, the student members of JYMA called through its newsletter and internet for donations to alleviate the condition and help reconstruct the damaged houses and infrastructures," the statement said.

Four JYMA members were scheduled to visit the Saipan Mayor's Office Friday at 9:30am and the Tinian Mayor's Office at 2pm to deliver the relief funds.

"Although the amount is minimal compared to the magnitude of destruction [Super] Typhoon Yutu has caused, JYMA strongly wishes that their effort would demonstrate the sympathy and friendship of the people of Japan and strengthen the ties between Japan and the Marianas again that was once weakened due to the declining numbers of the Japanese visitors in the last few decades," a statement from the organization said.

Alongside their visit, the students also intend to repair a 1971 monument erected on Tinian that has "long been forgotten" and has its plaques missing, which reportedly contained words of comfort to the souls of war victims of all nationalities.

JYMA is an organization founded in 1967 consisting mainly of Japanese university students. The organization noted that they had been engaged in memorial activities for those who perished during World War II.

"JYMA continued its activities mainly through cooperating with the Japanese government to recover the remains of the war dead from former battlefields, namely through training and dispatching personnel for the recovery and investigation missions," the statement noted.

"In addition, in order to promote international goodwill with the countries and areas that were involved in the war, JYMA conducts various international exchange and cooperation activities, such as sanitation and hygiene promotion, provision of scholarship to students with financial difficulties, reforestation projects, exchange and homestay programs, among others. With the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, JYMA has carried out several exchange programs of high school and university students in recent years," it added.

Saipan Mayor's Office back to beautification focus

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

From cleaning up Super Typhoon Yutu debris, the Saipan Mayor's Office is reverting to its original priorities for Saipan, which is to make the island as beautiful as possible for its residents and tourists alike.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang told *Saipan Tribune* last week that his office has reverted to prioritizing the beautification of the island since the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu in late October 2018 forced the office to prioritize cleanup efforts.

"We are back to our regular operation. We are doing village re-beautification now," Apatang said, adding that teams have started in Koblerville, San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa, and Chalan Piao.

"We are working our way toward the north," he said, citing the Dandan area, San Vicente area, Kagman area, and the Capital Hill area. "We are cleaning the villages along the roads and raking a lot of the trash."

Apatang further noted that he also has teams going around and doing bush-cutting work in the villages.

Even as they work toward restoring the beauty of the island, the mayor noted that many previous beautification projects were affected by the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu.

"There was more debris than we had ever seen," Apatang recalled. "People were throwing out trash and, even though many weren't typhoon-related, they just [dumped] it in one place. That's why there are trash flying around and we are now cleaning those up again," he said.

Saipan Mayor's Office field operations director Joann Aquino further noted that the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality would be issuing a statement soon regarding their enforcement of the 1989 Anti-Littering Act.

According to Aquino, BECQ would go far as to impose fines, depending on the severity of the violation.

Scheduled power interruptions on Saipan

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled power interruptions on the following dates, times and locations:

- **Monday, March 4, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 2 distribution circuit
  - Village location: As Perdido and Fina Sisu
  - Area(s) affected: As Perdido, Fina Sisu, and Chalan Kanoa
  - Water well(s) affected: None
  - Water service area(s) affected: None
  - Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None
  - Pole replacement(s): 21
- **Tuesday, March 5, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 2 distribution circuit
  - Village location: Fina Sisu
  - Areas(s) affected: Fina Sisu and Chalan Kanoa
  - Water well(s) affected: None
  - Water service area(s) affected: None
  - Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None
  - Pole replacement(s): 13
- **Wednesday, March 6, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on Kiya 2 distribution circuit
  - Village location: Chalan Kanoa
  - Area(s) affected: Chalan Kanoa
  - Water well(s) affected: None
  - Water service area(s) affected: None
  - Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None
  - Pole replacement(s): 9
- **Wednesday, March 6, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - Outage type: Lateral outage on Feeder 4 distribution circuit
  - Village location: Wireless Ridge
  - Area(s) affected: Wireless Ridge
  - Water well(s) affected: None
  - Water service area(s) affected: None
  - Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None
  - Pole replacement(s): 7
- **Thursday, March 7, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - Outage type: Lateral outage on the Feeder 4 distribution circuit
  - Village location: Wireless Ridge
  - Area(s) affected: Wireless Ridge
  - Water well(s) affected: None
  - Water service area(s) affected: None
  - Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None
  - Pole replacement(s): 7

The purpose of the scheduled power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow power line workers from the CUC contracting company, Primary Source Electric, to safely replace 57 wooden poles with concrete ones along As Perdido, Fina Sisu, Chalan Kanoa and Wireless Ridge villages.

The emergency power interruption is part of CUC's resiliency program aimed at hardening and strengthening the power distribution system that was affected by Super Typhoon Yutu. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-013

AGINGAN PRIMARY SCREEN PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the attainment of a Primary Screen for the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant at CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-19-013, Agingan Primary Screen Project"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 21, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety, Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 7, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-014

SADOG TASI PRIMARY SCREEN PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the attainment of a Primary Screen for the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant at CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-19-014, Sadog Tasi Primary Screen Project"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 22, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety, Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 8, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

NWS warns of Portuguese man-o-war

The dangerous jellyfish Portuguese man-o-war were recently reported in Guam beaches. It is recommended that beachgoers exercise caution until they have not been reported for a few days.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, the beach hazards statement is in effect on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota through Monday afternoon.

Beaches along Guam's eastern shores, including Pagat Point, Ypan Beach, and Inarajan Bay, should be on the lookout.

Contact with Portuguese man-o-war—whether alive or dead—can cause extreme pain and can be fatal in some cases.

Stay out of the water along eastern shores and avoid making contact with any Portuguese- man-o-war washed up on the beaches.

If contacted or stung, wash the area thoroughly with sea water (not fresh) and try to remove any spines still lodged in the skin.

The public is being advised to remain watchful for Portuguese man-o-war and avoid touching them. ***(EOC)***

Kanoa Resort now offers flexible high-speed WiFi

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Kanoa Resort Saipan has partnered with IT&E to offer flexible, high-speed data to its international and local guests.

The hotel claims they are the first to offer flexible, high-speed internet.

With the partnership, Kanoa offers high-speed internet to all rooms, provide internet connections to functions and events held at the resort, and Kanoa can even control the speed of the internet they provide to their consumers.

Kanoa Resort general manager Martin Jambor said the partnership enables the resort to offer internet speed with no limits.

"The speed now—the sky is the limit. We are the first hotel to establish this kind of partnership and I'm very proud of it. We actually tested it for the last six months without any problems. We could really compare how it was from before," he said.

IT&E CEO Jim Oehlerking reiterated that this is the company's first partnership with a hotel. IT&E works with hotel and create a long-term five-year relationship where they'd manage the resort's WiFi network.

"In this relationship, we take care of all of that for them and we provide them statistics on usage, capacity, and their customers' experience…as opposed to just giving them equipment and they have to take care of it. This allows us to work with the hotel and, if they want to change it (internet speed) and increase it, we can do it very dynamically. If there's, like, a high-level occupancy or events here, we can provide them more bandwidth in a very dynamic fashion, as opposed to just setting up a contract of just this much, no matter what. It's an interactive relationship between us and the hotel management," he said.

Oehlerking said the internet performance that Kanoa now offers is the same as what could be expected from Korea or even Japan.

"I think that, with the importance of the tourism industry here and the requirement and demand for communication, they're used to a [certain] internet speed and access. We wanted to make sure that in Kanoa, we were putting up a world-class solution that was similar to what they would be seeing in Seoul or in Japan and I think we've been able to accomplish that," he said.

Jambor said that when he became general manager in 2017, the resort's internet performance was just not acceptable and he made it a priority to ensure that Kanoa Resort guests would be provided with the best possible internet on island.

"When I started here…[the] infrastructure for internet cabling was very poor and it did reflect on the service, so we really had an issue. Customers from Korea and China…come with expectations. It's the 21st century and they expect to be well connected to social media and, unfortunately, we had serious issues. In some rooms, we couldn't get them connected. You'd have to walk to the lobby. It was a very poor situation for the resort, so it was my top priority to fix. After approaching different companies, IT&E was willing to partner with us, they really got my vision, and now we have access points in every room and I believe that, through IT&E, we now have the fastest internet on island compared to every other resort," he said.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (CPD) FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2019 AND SOLICITATION FOR COMMENTS FOR THE CONSOLIDATED PLAN

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, **through the** Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an **estimated** $1,361,000.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of $870,145.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); $421,257.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, $69,598.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2019.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of persons. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

- ***Program Year 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds will be utilized for the following projects: Rehabilitation of the Tinian Gymnasium Basketball Court; Rehabilitation of the Rota Youth Center; Rehabilitation of the Tanapag Youth Center; Rehabilitation of the Sinapalo Children's Park Roof.***
- ***Program Year 2019 Emergency Solutions Grant (HESG) funds will be used for repaid re-housing of homeless families in the CNMI.***
- ***Program Year 2019 HOME funds will continue to be used to assist families in new construction, rehabilitation, and purchase of a home.***
- ***Consolidated Plan: The NMHC is preparing its Five (5) Year Consolidated Plan and is soliciting comments and input on the priority needs, goals, and objectives for the next five (5) years.***

A briefing will be conducted to the public to discuss regarding the CPD program funds. The briefing will also enable the community to comment on the use of the program funds and to obtain information regarding the CPD program process.

The schedules and venues for the briefing are as follows:

Rota: ***Sinapalo Youth Center, Sinapalo: March 08, 2019: 3:00 p.m.***

Tinian: ***Mayor's Office Conference Room, San Jose: March 12, 2019: 3:00 p.m.***

Saipan: ***NMHC Central Office Conference Room, Garapan: March 15, 2019: 3:00 p.m.***

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the briefing so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD programs, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planning Assistant at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/ **Jesse S. Palacios**
Corporate Director

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES

By order of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, CUC is authorized to adjust the Fuel Adjustment Charge, previously known as Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause or LEAC, depending on the price of oil. Adjustments are made when the "Mean of Platts Singapore" monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the Fuel Adjustment Charge. Due to an increase in the average fuel prices, CUC will adjust the fuel and lube oil element by 9.07%. Accordingly, the Fuel Adjustment Charge has increased from $0.17624 per kWh to **$0.19213** per kWh effective **March 1, 2019**.

BASE RATES

		RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*
1	Monthly Customer Charge	$ 7.00	$ 10.00	$ 10.00	$ 9.06
2	Base Rates Per kWh:				
	KWH LEVELS				
	1) 1 to 350	$ 0.0210	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
	2) 351 to 1,200	$ 0.0970	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
	3) 1,201 and over	$ 0.1580	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070

*Municipal Pumping

FUEL ADJUSTMENT CHARGE or FAC (Previously known as Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause or LEAC)

	RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*
Current FAC (Effective 03/01/19)	$ 0.19213	$ 0.19213	$ 0.19213	$ 0.19213
Previous FAC (01/01/19 - 02/28/19)	$ 0.17624	$ 0.17624	$ 0.17624	$ 0.17624

*Municipal Pumping

PUBLIC STREETLIGHTING AND PRIVATE AREA LIGHTING TARIFF

Availability: Applicable to public outdoor streetlighting service and private area lighting where CUC owns, maintains and operates such facilities.
Fixture Charge: See below.
Energy Charge: The Energy Charge is the kWh multiplied by the sum of the applicable Electric Base Rate and the Fuel Adjustment Charge.
Total Streetlight Charge: The Total Streetlight Charge is the sum of the applicable Fixture Charge and the applicable Energy Charge.

			Monthly Charge				
FIXTURE TYPE	WATTS	KWH	FIXTURE CHARGE	RES - ENERGY CHARGE	**RES - TOTAL S.LIGHT CHARGE**	COM - ENERGY CHARGE	**COM - TOTAL S.LIGHT CHARGE**
1 Long Arm	250	101	$ 11.67	$ 21.53	**$ 33.20**	$ 30.82	**$ 42.49**
2 Short Arm	175	71	$ 8.33	$ 15.13	**$ 23.46**	$ 21.66	**$ 29.99**
3 LED	140	57	$ 10.83	$ 12.15	**$ 22.98**	$ 17.39	**$ 28.22**
			(a)	(b)	(a+b)	(c)	(a+c)

RES = Residential COM = Commercial S.LIGHT = Streetlight

ELECTRIC NON-RATE FEES

1	Late Charge (monthly)	1% of Past Due
2	NSF Check / Returned Check Charge	$ 40.00
3	Convenience Fee (for pay-by-phone and online payments) - Temporarily Suspended	$ 1.50
4	Unauthorized Connection	$ 550.00
5	Reconnection at the Pole	$ 200.00
6	Investigation (no charge for first two investigations)	$ 210.00
7	Disconnection Notice - Temporarily Suspended	$ 15.00
8	Meter Change Out	$ 95.00
9	New Service - Single Phase	$ 135.00
10	Inspection of Service (no charge for first two inspections)	$ 90.00
11	Meter Test - Single Phase	$ 75.00
12	Meter Test - Three Phase	$ 110.00
13	Disconnection at the Meter	$ 45.00
14	Reconnection at the Meter	$ 60.00

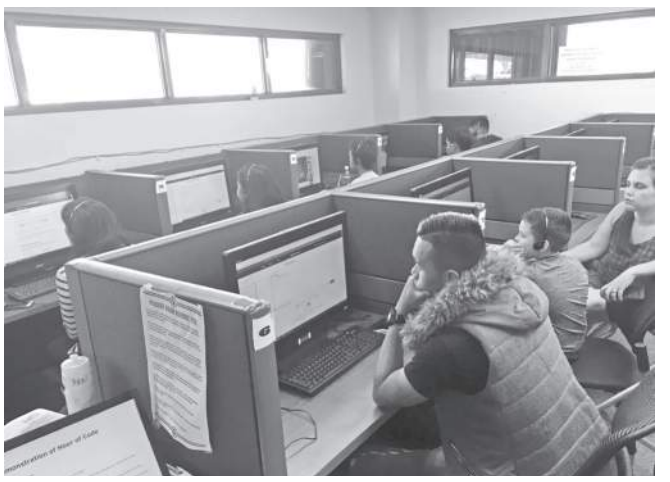
Mar-19

February tween, teen, adult events at JKPL

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library hosted some great events for the tweens, teens and adults last February. Two such events were Hour of Code and Baking Basics class. Both were free events intended to teach both youth and adults skills such as coding and baking.

Hour of Code last Feb. 14, 2019, explored the very basics of coding. Participants used KhanAcademy.org to guide them as they learned, and they also learned about the history of coding. At the end of the class, participants were able to code their own basic website, using different colors, styles, and pictures.

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library hosts a Baking Basics class last Feb. 22, 2019.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Hour of Code last Feb. 14, 2019, explored the very basics of coding.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Baking Basics last Feb. 22, 2019, was a class that aimed to teach participants the basics of baking; cupcakes were used to teach the basics. Baking chocolate cupcakes from scratch proved to be a great experience for the participants. Participants also learned how to make a simple chocolate buttercream frosting to decorate their cupcakes. At the end of the class, everyone enjoyed snacking on the cupcakes they had baked. ***(PR)***

Public library's KidzCamp a hit

Every Saturday in February, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library held a KidzCamp for children ages 6-12, to increase the participants' awareness of taking care of their health, and how we can keep our hearts healthy, as well as provide a fun weekend activity for children. Over 40 children were able to participate.

Each day, the participants visited three stations: dance, computer, and arts & crafts. Each station had a different activity each day, from participating in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) activities, to exploring media-enhance books online, to learning some fun dances.

The Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public library, the Northern Marianas College Nursing Club, the Public School System Food and Nutrition Services, AmeriCorps volunteers, the Northern Marianas Humanities Council Motheread/ Fatheread Family Literacy Program, and library volunteers made this program happen. ***(PR)***

Art classes at the public library

In honor of Women's Month, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is providing many opportunities for beginner or advanced artists in the CNMI. Two opportunities include an art class by instructor Meena Benavente, and Art Camp, sponsored by the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture. Both programs are free, but registration is required. Supplies will be provided.

Art Camp will take place on Saturdays—March 9, 16, 23, and 30—from 12pm to 2pm and from 2pm to 4pm.

■ Session 1: March 9, 2019 (Registration period March 1 – March 7 or until filled)

A: 12pm-2pm - Mwar Making

B: 2pm-4pm - Recycle Flower Making

■ Session 2: March 16, 2019 (Registration period March 1 - March14 or until filled)

A: 12pm-2pm - Beads Jewel Making

B: 2pm - 4pm - Painting

■ Session 3: March 23, 2019 (Registration period March 1 - March 21 or until filled)

A: 12pm-2pm - Recycle Paper Art

B: 2pm-4pm - Painting

■ Session 4: March 30, 2019 (Registration period March 1 - March 28 or until filled)

A: 12pm-2pm - Lei Making

B: 2pm-4pm - Flower Making

Art Camp is for library patrons ages 8 and up with a library card. Patron must have no fines/fees in order to participate. To register, stop by the library. All registrations must be made in the library. Seating is limited, so sign up today.

Another great opportunity for artists is on Saturday, March 16, an art class in honor of Women's Month. This class will be led by Meena Benavente, creator of post-typhoon tin art. The class will run from 10:30am to 11:30am, and registration is required. Class is for ages 6-12 years old, and patrons must have a library card with no fees/ fines in order to participate. Limited seating, so sign up today! Registration runs from Friday, March 1, to Thursday, March 14 (Tuesday-Friday, 10:30am to 5:30pm, Saturday, 9:30am to 3:30pm). All registrations must be made in the library. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-012

ISLAND WIDE WATER METER INSTALLATION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Water Meter Installation, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of installing new service saddles, corporation stops, PVC service lines from the CUC water main to the meter, replacing defective water meters, installing new service laterals and new water meters, properly sizing existing service lines, installing a water meter on existing CUC service lines without a meter, relocating existing CUC water meters from private property to public easement, reconfiguring the orientation of water meters to easily identify customers, removing existing manifold systems, and as required, installing new service lines from the meter to the house plumbing. It may also be required to connect existing service lines to a new meter and/or house piping.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **February 12, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"Island Wide Water Meter Installation, Saipan"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 6, 2019,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 21, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant – via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Procurement Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

AMENDED PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular board meeting on **Tuesday, March 5, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes of December 19, 2018 Regular Board Meeting
- E. Correspondence

II. Public Comments**

III. Management Reports
- A. Executive Director's Report
- B. Acting Chief Financial Officer's Report

IV. Old Business
- A. Emergency Procurement of Engine and Alternative Power Supply for Rota
- B. Status of Outstanding Utility Billings
  - 1. Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
  - 2. Commonwealth Ports Authority
- C. Telesource Contract

V. New Business
- A. Approval of Fiscal Year 2020 Proposed Budget
- B. Executive Director's Employment Contract
- C. Amendments to Human Resources Classification System

VI. Personnel Committee Report

VII. Executive Session*
- A. Emergency Procurement of Engine and Alternative Power Supply for Rota
- B. Executive Director's Employment Contract

VIII. Other Related Matters

IX. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

Welcome To
Annual Meet & Greet
Celebration for
CNMI Women's Month
"Empowering Women as Leaders of Change"
March 8, 2019 • Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands

Acting governor Arnold I. Palacios, standing seventh right, and his wife, Wella S. Palacios, join some female members from various sectors of the community in last Thursday's proclamation signing declaring March as CNMI Women's Month on Capital Hill.

JON PEREZ

March is Women's Month

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Arnold I. Palacios declared Thursday the month of March as the CNMI Women's Month, as he signed the CNMI Women's Month proclamation at the CNMI Governor's Office conference room.

CNMI Women's Association chair Rose A. Hocog noted in her opening remark that taking control of life is the theme this year's celebration.

"Lead-her-ship. What that means as women is that we need to take charge and lead our own ship—we can't keep depending on others to lead our own ship," she said. "We must take the lead ourselves."

The International Women's Day theme this year is "Balance for better; making a call to action for accelerating gender balance which is essential for economies and communities to thrive."

Palacios noted in his remarks that he refers to the most important women in his life as heroes.

"I know who my heroes are," Palacios said. "We were a family of 14 and Mom wakes up 5am in the morning to get our uniforms ready and our lunches," he recounted.

Palacios noted that his mother used to be his hero up until he got married to Wella Palacios.

According to the proclamation, the Women's Affairs Office under the Office of the Governor and the CNMI Women's Association remain as "the beacon to promote the interests of women, assist agencies of government and private organizations to plan and implement programs and services, and further commit to advocate, guide, and light the way for continued progress and prosperity of the CNMI."

Acting governor Arnold I. Palacios signs the CNMI Women's Month proclamation at the CNMI Governor's Office conference room.

JON PEREZ

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the recessed Regular Board Meeting as scheduled on Thursday, February 28, 2019- 10:00 a.m., will **resume on Thursday, March 07, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in Advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes (November 20, 2018)
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
   a. Division Update Reports
   b. CDBG-DR
IV. OLD BUSINESS
   a. Nelrod Salary Comparability Study
V. NEW BUSINESS
   a. Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Proposal
   b. USDA RD MOU
   c. Lotus Homes Request for Additional Credits
   d. Section 8 Admin Plan Amendment
   e. Personnel Matters
   f. Isa Villas and Guma Familia Estates Return and Reallocation Request
VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. OTHER MATTERS
IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **Aubry M. Hocog**
Chairwoman of the Board

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

02/13/19
Notice for Public Comment
Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

Program Year/ IDIS No.:	Program:	Activity Name:	Subrecipient:	Approved Budget:	Proposed Reprogramming Amount:	Proposed Revised Project Budget:	Current IDIS Funded Amount:
2015/643	CDBG	Renovation of the Koblerville Fire Station (Project Completed)	Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS)	$154,940.00	($31,355.00)	N/A	$0.00
2015/641	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Kagman Community Park (Project Completed)	Department of Land and Natural Resources	$150,000.00	($22,129.79)	N/A	$0.00
2016/673	CDBG	CDBG Planning and Administrative Cost	NMHC	$196,969.20	($70,976.69)	N/A	$70,976.69
2017/679	CDBG	CDBG Planning and Administrative Cost	NMHC	$202,995.90	($5,932.27)	N/A	$125,061.98
2017/678	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Tinian Youth Center	Tinian Mayors Office	$43,510.00	($17,446.00)	N/A	$43,510.00
		Total Reprogrammed from Activities:		**$748,415.10**	**($147,839.75)**		
2018/676	CDBG	Koblerville Youth Learning Center Expansion and Enhancement Project	Office of Youth Affairs/ Office of the Governor	$435,370.00	$39,270.75	$474,640.75	$435,370.00
2018/677	CDBG	Rehabilitation and Expansion of the Kagman Community Center	Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DCCA)	$323,081.00	$108,569.00	$431,650.00	$323,081.00
		Total Reprogrammed to Activities:			**$147,839.75**		

Our agency through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) that we publish a "Public Notice" on reprogramming of funds over $50,001.00. Therefore, comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central office located in Garapan, Saipan on or before March 15, 2019, no later than 10 a.m. You may contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at (670)234-6866/9447.

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Trump wisely walks away from his North Korea summit without a (bad) deal

The abrupt end to President Donald Trump's summit meeting with North Korea's Kim Jong Un may strike some as a huge embarrassment for a president who portrays himself as the ultimate dealmaker. It wasn't. Instead, Trump deserves credit for leaving Vietnam when he concluded that Kim was insisting on unreasonable terms—the lifting of all U.S. economic sanctions if the North dismantled its nuclear complex in Yongbyon.

Before the summit, it was thought North Korea might decommission that site in exchange for the U.S. agreeing to a formal statement ending the Korean War and perhaps relief from some sanctions. But Trump said Kim demanded much more: the lifting of sanctions "in their entirety." Added Trump, "We couldn't do that." (North Korean foreign minister Ri Yong Ho disputed Trump's account, saying that the North asked for the lifting of only those sanctions that "hamper the civilian economy and the livelihood of our people.")

Trump and his advisers had indicated they were willing to make concessions and accept incremental steps from North Korea rather than immediate denuclearization. Reportedly the administration was even willing to defer its demand that the North provide an inventory of its nuclear stockpile and ballistic missiles. But in the end, Kim apparently wasn't content with such concessions.

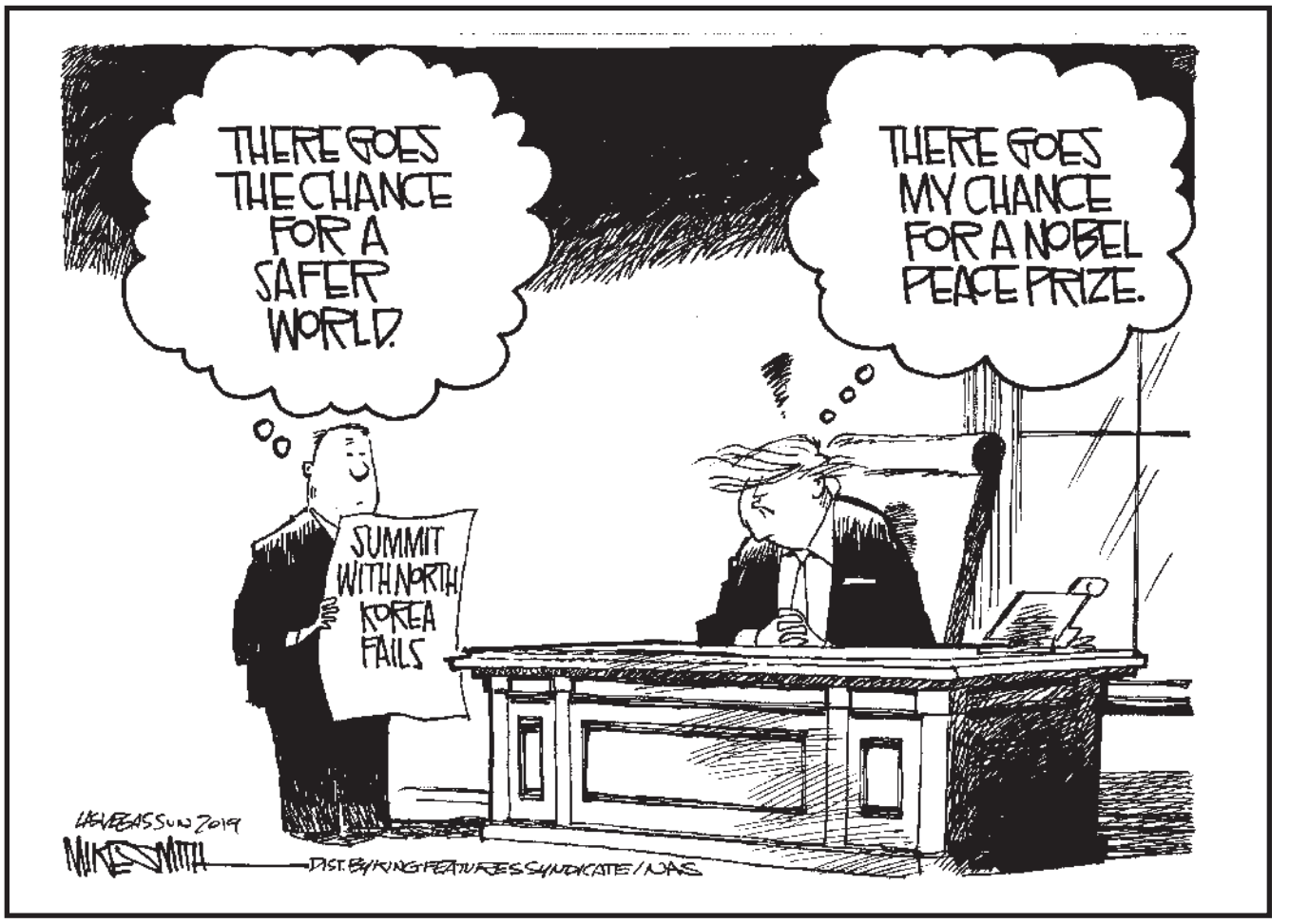
The president's decision to leave without even a vague agreement is especially notable in light of his boasting about his personal relationship with Kim. (He had said, only half-jokingly, that "we fell in love.")

But it was still the right decision, and it doesn't necessarily mean the engagement is over or that the U.S. and North Korea won't reach an agreement in the future.

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan walked away from a summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Reykjavik, Iceland, after failing to reach a sweeping agreement on reducing nuclear arsenals. But the U.S. and the Soviets continued to communicate, and in 1987 Reagan and Gorbachev signed the Intermediate-Range And Shorter-Range Missiles (INF) treaty, which grew out of discussions in Reykjavik. (Irony alert: The Trump administration has announced that the U.S. is withdrawing from that agreement.)

Trump has been widely criticized for being too eager to "make a deal" and overconfidence in his ability to bond with foreign leaders. His decision to reject an unacceptable offer from Kim may reflect the counsel of harder-headed advisers, but the final decision was his. He has acted against type, and his critics should thank him for that.

(c)2019 Los Angeles Times


THERE GOES THE CHANCE FOR A SAFER WORLD.
THERE GOES MY CHANCE FOR A NOBEL PEACE PRIZE.
SUMMIT WITH NORTH KOREA FAILS
LAS VEGAS SUN 2019
MIKE SMITH
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE / NAS.

'The needs of the US territories require unique treatment'

Editor's Note: The following is the text of the written testimony of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres before the House Committee on Natural Resources hearing on Feb. 27, 2019.

By RALPH DLG TORRES
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ralph DLG Torres is the governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Good afternoon. Chairman Grijalva, Ranking Member Bishop, Vice Chairman Sablan and members of the committee, thank you for the time you have provided to this hearing on H.R. 560 and the ongoing issues relating to the CNMI's complex transition in to the U.S. immigration system and for allowing the submission of this written testimony for the record.

Since my last testimony before this committee, much has transpired in the CNMI's efforts to hire more U.S. workers, reduce our dependency on foreign workers, create an even playing ground for all workers to compete in and create a viable economy in the Western Pacific.

I wish to thank the members of this committee for your support of the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act. This has provided much needed relief from the impending termination date of the CW-1 program and permitted the economy to continue to survive. This year would have seen half of the CNMI's workforce leave the island and a collapse of the economy if action was not taken. For this reprieve, and for your understanding of the unique circumstances facing our Commonwealth, thank you.

Yet, we are here once again to discuss necessary amendments to the immigration provisions of our Covenant. The CNMI has just experienced the worst typhoon to hit our shores in generations. In fact, it was the strongest such storm to hit the United States since 1935. Winds exceeded 185 miles per hour. There is still much work to be done at home, but I feel it is necessary to be here to discuss this issue because we must take every opportunity we have available to us to spread the understanding that the needs of the CNMI people are unique within the United States. We face challenges with geography and demographics that magnify our constraints, and we must deal with these challenges with far fewer resources.

The provisions of H.R. 560 recognize the unique characteristics of our society, the complex history that led us to the community we have today, and it highlights the fact that the transition period put into place in 2008 is a work in progress in creating a system that avoids adverse impacts to our people.

We live in the effects of actions of Congress. We must deal with the decisions of our forbearers who crafted the Covenant, and their negotiated agreement to allow the young government of the Northern Mariana Islands the ability to grow its economy through local control of immigration. We live with the intended and unintended consequences of Public Law 110-229 which took that control away. And it is our responsibility to do what is right in the effort to meld three decades of local control with 10 years of experience within the transition period. To me that is what H.R. 560 works to accomplish. A simple recognition that the transition period created 11 years ago was not a finished product and that we share in the responsibility to recognize areas of additional concern and rectify them in good faith with the best interest of the people of the CNMI in mind.

The solutions presented in H.R. 560 are important but only comprise a piecemeal effort to respond to the unintended consequences of the transition period.

In 2017, H.R. 339, the Northern Mariana Islands Economic Expansion Act, was signed into law, and the ability to petition construction workers to perform work in the CNMI under the CW-1 program was prohibited. We were told that this should be of little concern as the construction needs of the Commonwealth could be met sufficiently by the H2-B visa program.

However, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently provided a new interpretation of the H2-B program, effectively removing eligibility of general contractors from applying and receiving labor as their needs do not qualify as "temporary". Now in order to obtain a foreign construction worker a business must apply for the worker directly. Small businesses, and home owners do not have this ability. Further the removal of Philippines from the list of eligible source countries for H2-B labor has further limited legal avenues for foreign labor.

We saw the issues almost immediately after the enactment of H.R. 339, but the situation today is far more dire. After the onslaught laid upon the CNMI from Super Typhoon Yutu [in] October 2018, four out of every 10 homes in the CNMI were destroyed or suffered major damage. Across the island, you will see rows of [Federal Emergency Management Agency]-issued tents and families sheltering their children and their possessions

See TERRITORIES on Next Page

Preschool education is absolutely vital to America's security

NEWPORT NEWS, Va.—Out my window at Huntington Ingalls Industries, I can see the USS Enterprise, the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier ever built.

She is the eighth United States naval vessel to bear that name, dating back to the Continental Navy sloop-of-war that served in Lake Champlain's Battle of Quebec in 1775.

Even the Star Trek Enterprise was named for her. She is decommissioned now, but for a half-century, she was America's sharpest spear at the Cuban Missile Crisis, in Vietnam, in the Persian Gulf.

Behind her on historic Hampton Roads, I see the outline of our newest carrier the USS Gerald R. Ford, which will soon go to sea and become a symbol of American strength and resolve for the next half-century.

Seeing them together—the Enterprise and the Ford—is an astonishing convergence, 100 years of our nation's history in one place.

An aircraft carrier represents the best of America in every way. Think for a moment about the vision, the imagination, the technology, the skill, the will and the tens of millions of labor hours required to build a ship that will be at sea for 50 years.

The hallowed purpose: never to sail on a mission of conquest, but always to keep the seas open and the world stable.

An aircraft carrier represents our commitment to invest in, believe in and prepare for the national security future of America.

This is the very commitment we need to make for the future of our children.

We have fallen desperately behind in teaching our children the most basic skill: the love of learning.

Study after study shows that the most powerful and cost-effective way to make our children lifelong learners is to start them on that path before school—when they are 2 and 3 and 4 years old.

The United States ranks third from the bottom among 36 industrialized countries in preschool enrollment.

I have been touched by early education in the most personal way. My wife, Nancy, has been a passionate preschool educator for many years, and I have seen up close how she unlocks the love of learning inside children.

That is the word she uses—"unlocks"—and it is astonishing to watch. Each child requires their own key. And once that love for learning is unlocked, all things become possible.

An aircraft carrier is an engineering marvel, but its power is not embedded in technology or weaponry.

The power of USS Gerald R. Ford, like the power of the Enterprise, will come from our best people, particularly the 5,000—average age of 19—who will take her around the world, wherever needed.

At Huntington Ingalls Industries, America's largest shipbuilding company employing more than 40,000 people, we probably have the longest horizon of any company in the world.

The vast majority of companies are not as lucky as we are. They don't have a 50-year scope. They don't have the resources or the ability to step back and take a long view. They've got to survive this week, this month, this quarter.

We are not like that. We build from the past. We have more than 1,000 master shipbuilders. That means more than 1,000 people who have worked with us at least 40 consecutive years. And yet we must also look into the distant future—not just weeks or months or even years, but decades.

The last commanding officer of USS Gerald R. Ford, incredible as it seems, has not yet been born.

What you understand when you take in the humbling scene of the Enterprise and the Ford together is that we must look beyond the noise and clatter of the moment.

This is harder now than ever before. We know that the debates of the day will rage on, as they always have. We live in a time bogged down by cynicism and despair and divisiveness, and it is easy to lose hope, lose belief and lose faith.

It's also easy to believe that someone else will shape our children's destinies or that we can drop the whole issue into the lap of our government and say, "Solve it."

But one of the great strengths of America is that we've always looked forward with hope and determination and imagination, even while fighting the battles of today.

And nothing is more important than to ensure that our children will thrive in a rapidly changing world. I don't just believe early childhood education in America is a national security issue. I believe it is the national security issue.

Unlocking our children's love of learning will require the same will, vision and imagination that was required to build the USS Enterprise in 1959.

Every leader in businesses looking for the best and brightest of tomorrow must join the fight.

We may feel like we're giving something to these children. But the truth is they will give us infinitely more in return.

By MIKE PETTERS
Tribune News Service

Mike Petters is president and CEO of Huntington Ingalls Industries, America's largest military shipbuilding company. He earned a bachelor of physics degree from the U.S. Naval Academy and a Masters in Business Administration from the College of William and Mary. Readers may write to him at HHI, 4101 Washington Ave., Newport News, VA 23607

TERRITORIES

From Page 10

next to the shattered remains of their homes. A construction effort is needed to secure the safety and wellbeing of these families in a scale never before seen in the CNMI since the end of World War II, but we simply do not have the means to do so.

This is not a new concern. After the damaging effects of Hurricane Harvey in Texas, the population there experienced a severe shortage of construction labor to rebuild homes and communities. Building costs soared and those with fewer means suffered the most to rebuild as contractors were struggling to keep pace with the demand. This shortage came even as the demand had the ability to source and transport labor and equipment from any of the 48 contiguous states through connected roadways.

The CNMI is 8,000 miles from Washington, D.C. I had to travel 24 hours to be here today at nearly twice the cost it would be for someone here to travel to Mumbai. For weeks following Typhoon Yutu, we had to resort to bringing in bucket trucks, forklifts, and trailers to support the emergency recovery efforts in the CNMI through the establishment of a continual airbridge supported by several Antonov aircrafts. Residents were left without power for months as transformers and concrete power poles waited for air transport. Doing anything in the Northern Marianas is more difficult.

With the lessons learned in Typhoon Soudelor in 2015, Typhoon Mangkhut in September of 2018 and seeing the tremendous need after Typhoon Yutu, FEMA and the Department of Defense recognized the challenges of performing their necessary work for the American citizens living in the CNMI by seeking out new and innovative solutions that conformed to our unique circumstances.

One week after the disaster, DoD and FEMA officials announced a program in collaboration with the CNMI called the Temporary Emergency Tent and Roofing Installation Support or TETRIS program. Under TETRIS, the Joint Task Force West, saw more than 1,000 uniformed service members mobilized in support of the relief efforts. Seabees from the 30th Naval Construction Regiment and the 254th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operation Repair Squadron Engineers were activated in the hundreds to support the installation of tents and emergency roof repairs for the thousands of affected homes because local manpower and resources could not scale in the capacity necessary to prevent further loss of life, mitigate suffering and reduce the impact of the disaster.

If it were not for the 200 men and women of the Seabees and the Red Horses, 184 homes [on] Tinian would be without roofs over their heads because there are no available construction workers there. On Saipan, this collaborative force installed 362 roofs, easing the urgent demand for construction labor but by no means created a long-term solution for these families.

Further FEMA recently approved a Permanent Housing Construction Program that will source and provide labor and materials to reconstruct the homes of eligible households. Currently there are 9,400 applicants for this program and FEMA is in the process of looking toward bringing in labor from outside the CNMI because of the lack of local manpower. The homes that are selected will be fortunate. Now as FEMA and SBA resources have been released to the residents of the CNMI, the thousands of homes remaining will not be able to afford the cost of transporting labor nor will there be available contractors to help rebuild their lives.

The Department of Defense and FEMA have experienced the challenges we live with daily when it comes to labor and have created new pathways to work around them. I ask that you consider their experience and join it with the experiences of our private sector partners who are struggling to grow our economy and hire our people in the face of the restrictions imposed on us by Washington, D.C.

We are an island, surrounded by the world's richest economies, but are limited in our growth by the size of our land, the cost of our capital and the restrictions imposed on our access to labor. When we are to compete in a competitive global economy how are we to survive in direct competition with booming economies of Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam while being more vulnerable to natural disasters and placed under US laws that were designed for the economies as diverse and resilient as California or New York.

I ask you, how would you help the 52 percent of our population who live beneath the federal poverty line achieve the standards of living equal to that of their American counterparts in the states in these conditions?

The CNMI does not wish to be a problem for Congress to solve. We want to grow and succeed as proud Americans in a geopolitically sensitive region of the world. Getting us to that point requires additional changes to the structure of our transition period that recognizes our challenges.

I ask that Congress revisit the immigration provisions of our Covenant and allow for the rebuilding of our homes and our community.

I respectfully request passage of H.R. 560 to allow for those in our community who have built our islands over the last decades of our development remain and contribute to their neighbors. I ask that we reconsider the prohibition of construction labor under the CW-1 program to allow for the CNMI to determine the allowable cap on construction permits available to both safeguard the scarcity of these permits and allow for the necessary construction of our islands. And I ask that Congress replicate the program allowed for our neighboring island of Guam and their military buildup program and permit the entry of construction workers under the H2-B program to work with general contractors and construction companies as we continue the long rebuilding process ahead of us.

I wish to offer you two recommendations for legislative remedies to this issue and request your cooperation in finding a positive outcome for the CNMI:

I ask for your consideration in providing amendments to U.S. Public Law 115-218 to include an exemption to the prohibition on Construction Occupations, Sec. 6(a)(3)(D)(v), for petitions within a maximum allowable quota that will be provided annually to the Secretary of Homeland Security and Secretary of Labor under Sec. 6(b)(3)(B) of the law.

Additionally, I ask that you consider an amendment that would mirror the provision contained in U.S. Public Law 115-232, Sec. 1045, allowing for H2-B workers to be granted admission into the CNMI to perform labor in the performance of contracts or subcontracts for construction, repairs, renovations, or facility services that is connected or associated with a Presidential Disaster Declaration for a period of 5 years following the declaration. Altering the circumstances from Guam, the federal agency that would collaborate in this process to certify these activities were connected with the recovery efforts would be [FEMA].

Critical for this recommendation is the allowance for the CNMI government or a regional labor entity, such as those currently present in Guam, to be the responsible party in the issuance of Foreign Labor Certifications. As is currently the practice in Guam under U.S. Public Law 115- 232, a local certification authority would be responsible to work alongside FEMA representatives to define eligibility requirements and processes for petitioning foreign labor in construction occupations related to the repair and recovery of our islands. I am not here asking for financial support. I am asking for your understanding and for your permission to make do with what limited options are available to us to help our people succeed. I am not asking for new solutions, but the replication of concepts Congress has already employed. It was under previous provisions and interpretations of U.S. Public Law 110-229 that the CNMI economy grew 28.6 percent in 2016 and 25.1 percent in 2017. We should adjust, amend and reconsider our actions in effort to provide more for those in the CNMI living far below the standards of our larger American community.

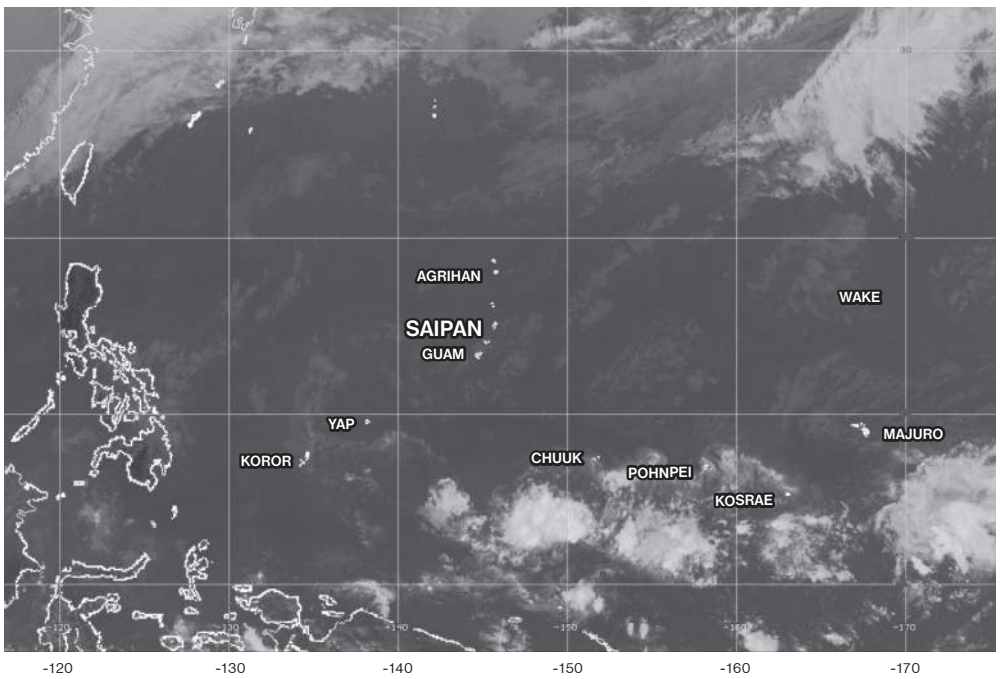
Your support of H.R. 560 is a monumental step toward that direction, but I ask that it not be the end of these conversations. We must continue to recognize when federal actions come into conflict with the realities of life in the Western Pacific. And as we work together on these issues, I hope to gain your understanding that the needs of the U.S. territories require treatment unique to them.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
86° 76°	87° 76°	88° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:23 AM, SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters, mainly near Guam and Rota. The VAD wind profile indicates east-northeast winds of 14 to 21 knots through the lowest 7 thousand feet of the air. The buoys reveal 5 to 6 foot combined seas composed mainly of east swell and east-northeast wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 76°
Yap	Showers	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	73° / 61°
Beijing	Sunny	64° / 36°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	75° / 68°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	76° / 66°
London	Showers	48° / 39°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	65° / 52°
Manila	Sunny	91° / 77°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	82° / 61°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	84° / 72°
New York	Partly Cloudy	38° / 18°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	57° / 46°
Paris	Windy	54° / 41°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	61° / 48°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	64° / 52°
Salem	Cloudy	56° / 34°
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	55° / 46°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	55° / 37°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	59° / 46°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	39° / 23°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:38 AM	HIGH TIDE	-0.04
07:31 AM	LOW TIDE	1.75
1:08 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.02
6:06 PM	LOW TIDE	1.75

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:32 AM	6:25 PM
Tuesday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM
Wednesday	6:31 AM	6:25 PM
Thursday	6:30 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:30 AM	6:25 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:51 AM	4:31 PM	-
Tuesday	5:33 AM	5:20 PM	-
Wednesday	6:13 AM	6:08 PM	-
Thursday	6:52 AM	6:56 PM	-
Friday	7:29 AM	7:43 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 21, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:40pm	2 via GUM
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM
UA116/174	11:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

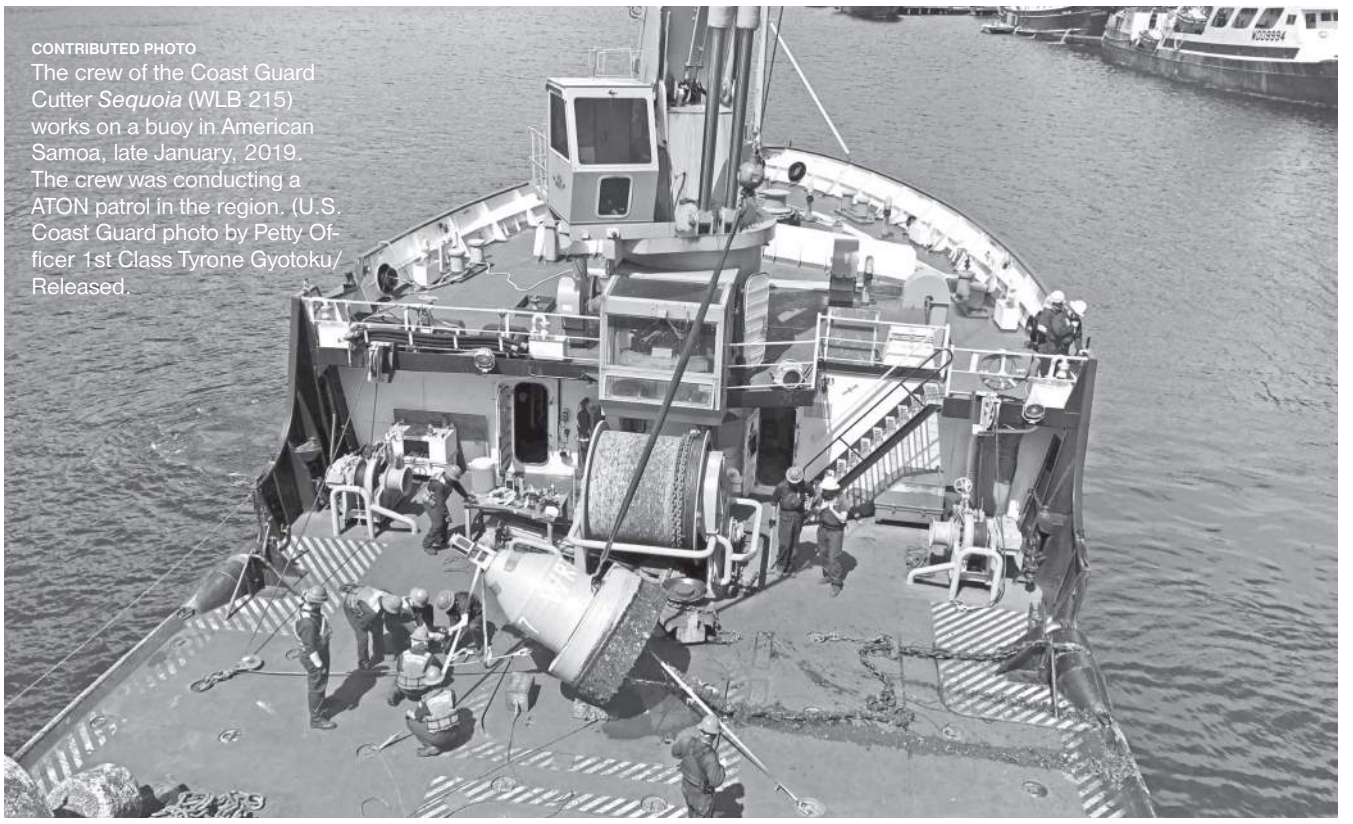
Sequoia returns to Guam following busy start to 2019

HONOLULU—The crew of the Coast Guard cutter *Sequoia* returned to Apra Harbor, Guam, last Monday following a multi-cutter patrol in response to Super Typhoon Wutip.

Super Typhoon Wutip was the strongest February storm in the Western Pacific Ocean in 70 years. While underway the *Sequoia* led a typhoon avoidance group with the two 110-foot island class patrol boats from Guam.

"Our mission is two-fold in a situation like Typhoon Wutip," said Lt. Cmdr. Christian Adams, commanding officer, *Sequoia*. "The first is to protect our response capabilities during the storm and conduct emergent search and rescue. This allows us to complete our second mission; to assist in response efforts following the storm's passing."

Before the typhoon, the crew of the *Sequoia* was one of the few Coast Guard units underway during the recent government shutdown. Leaving Guam in early January, they traveled over 8,146 statute miles (7,079 nautical miles) to conduct aids to navigation maintenance and replacement in American Samoa and Kwajalein Atoll.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter *Sequoia* (WLB 215) works on a buoy in American Samoa, late January, 2019. The crew was conducting a ATON patrol in the region. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Tyrone Gyotoku/ Released.

The care of ATON is a vital service the crew of the *Sequoia* provides to the Western Pacific. Their mission ties directly into the commandant's Maritime Commerce Strategic Outlook released last year. As a maritime nation, the upkeep of ATON ensures commerce continues safely and ensures remote places like American Samoa have access to an ever-expanding world economy. While on patrol the *Sequoia* crew worked nine floating aids and 11 fixed aids, including three navigation ranges. These are buoys and day boards assisting mariners in the navigation of a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Sequoia's primary roles have been to assist our partners in the Pacific in the care of their ATON and, through joint fisheries boardings, enforce conservation and management measures established by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. This allows maritime nations in the region to conserve commercial fish stocks and ensures this vital resource remains sustainable for years to come. Due to operations and scheduling this patrol focused on ATON and training in small boat evolutions and buoy deck operations roles. The crew overcame several challenges, including communications issues and engine temperatures, and deck equipment.

"I'm proud of this crew for rising to the occasion and completing the mission in an area that is not normally part of our responsibility offering such a complex supply chain," said Adams.

As a maritime service, the Coast Guard participates in many traditions, some dating back centuries. During the patrol, the cutter made a crossing at the intersection of the Equator and International Dateline and partook in the time-honored tradition of inducting 36 crewmembers as "Golden Shellbacks." During a ceremony, the new Golden Shellbacks received a certificate commemorating the event.

"As with all seafarers, there are certain milestones we celebrate as unique and worthy of remembrance honoring our nautical traditions," said Adams. "Being a Golden Shellback is a fun, unofficial way to celebrate our growth as mariners."

This patrol aligns with the District 14 plan to provide for continued safety of navigation during the anticipated gap in buoy-tender coverage in the Pacific associated with the mid-life maintenance schedule for the 225-foot sea going buoy tenders fleet wide. ***(USCG)***

Adopt a pet and plant a tree

YIGO, Guam—Like many areas around the island, the GAIN animal shelter property in Yigo suffers from soil loss and erosion. This has caused the property to develop a slope that encourages soil runoff, exposes the dog kennel foundations, and causes puddling water.

"We have lost a lot of soil over the past several years and you can really see the effects if you look at old photos of the shelter," says GAIN executive director Ali Hadley. "We worry it will soon start to damage the dog kennels and even our buildings."

In an effort to help the non-profit and only animal shelter on island, the Guam Bureau of Statistics and Planning and Guam Department of Forestry collaborated with Guam Animals in Need last Saturday to plant 80-100 trees around the shelter property.

"We are extremely grateful that BSP and Forestry are helping us with this while also making it a community event. It's an excellent opportunity for the public to do something great for the environment and the shelter, as well as visit some of our adoptable animals. It's a win-win," said Hadley in an earlier statement.

The event ran from 8:30am to 10:30am at the GAIN animal shelter in Yigo. ***(PR)***

Maria Eugenia H. Leon Guerrero is BankGuam Holding's new director

Leon Guerrero

BankGuam Holding Co. made two announcements following its Feb. 25, 2019, board meeting: The appointment of Maria Eugenia H. Leon Guerrero to the board of directors for BankGuam Holding Co., Bank of Guam, and BG Investment Services, and the declaration of a quarterly cash dividend.

Leon Guerrero's appointment follows the resignation of Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, effective Dec. 31, 2018. Leon Guerrero was also appointed to serve as a member of the Stock Purchase Plan committee, Trust, Asset Liability, Executive and Loan committees of the board of directors.

» Q1 dividends announced

Leon Guerrero is currently executive vice president /retail and card services of the bank (since 2016) and an officer of the holding company (since 2018). She began her career with Bank of Guam in 2009 as a management trainee, and has held the position of commercial credit officer, six sigma champion and strategic planning officer and director of card Services before assuming her current role overseeing the bank's branch network, e-banking and card services.

A graduate of the University of Washington (B.A., International Studies), the Foster School of Business at the University of Washington (Master of Business Administration) and the Pacific Coast Banking School, Leon Guerrero serves as the current chair for the Guam Foundation for Public Education. She is the vice chair for Teach Money, Inc. and treasurer of Sanctuary Inc. of Guam, in addition to being a member of Rotary Club of Tumon Bay, Guam Young Professionals and I Fanlalai'an Oral History Project. She is a certified Project Management Professional and has earned Bank of Guam's Supervisor of the Year and Familia Champion of the Year Awards.

"I am very pleased at the appointment of Maria to our board of directors. Her extensive banking experience and community involvement in our region bring a seasoned perspective and deep knowledge to our company. We look forward to her contributions to our mission and purpose." said Joaquin P.L.G. Cook, interim president and chief executive officer.

The board also declared a quarterly cash dividend of $0.10 per share for the holders of its common stock and a dividend payment to the holders of the company's 5.5 percent fixed rate/floating rate noncumulative preferred stock, series A, at its board's regular meeting held on Monday, Feb. 25, 2019. The dividends will be paid on March 29, 2019, to shareholders of record as of March 15, 2019. ***(PR)***

Guam TAG visits soldiers during annual training

Lt. Col. Esther J.C. Aguigui, The Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard, visited more than 450 soldiers from the Guam Army National Guard's 1st-294th Infantry Regiment, and Hotel Company, 29th Brigade Support Battalion, 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, who are currently training at Camp Roberts Army Base in Monterey, California, in preparation for an upcoming mobilization.

Camp Roberts is one of the largest military training facilities in the world with a history dating back to 1797 when the land was farmed and groomed by missionaries. It remains open as the home of the California National Guard.

According the Lt. Col. David Santos, battalion commander, "the individual and collective training events help to increase the units' overall readiness posture. The soldiers will also conduct crew-served weapons qualifications and participate in squad live-fire exercises."

The soldiers departed Guam two weeks ago and will continue training for another week before returning home. ***(PR)***

1ST LT. MARK SCOTT/GUAM NATIONAL GUARD
Lt. Col. Esther J.C. Aguigui, The Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard, at center, is given an operations brief by Capt. Edward Charfauros, at left, and other soldiers, during a visit on Thursday, Feb. 28, to the more than 450 soldiers, from the Guam Army National Guard's 1st-294th Infantry Regiment, and Hotel Company, 29th Brigade Support Battalion, 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, who are currently training at Camp Roberts Army Base in Monterey, California, in preparation for an upcoming mobilization.

Business

China considers legal changes on technology to placate US

AP

In this March 1, 2019, photo, people walk past a video display showing a meeting at the Great Hall of the People at an exhibition commemorating the 40th anniversary of China's Reform and Opening Up Movement at the National Museum in Beijing.

BEIJING (AP)—In an unusual step, China's ceremonial legislature is due to endorse a law meant to help end a bruising tariff war with Washington by discouraging officials from pressuring foreign companies to hand over technology.

The battle with China's biggest trading partner is overshadowing the National People's Congress, the country's highest-profile event of the year. It brings 3,000-plus delegates to the ornate Great Hall of the People in Beijing for two weeks of speeches, meetings with senior leaders and political ritual to endorse the ruling Communist Party's economic and social welfare plans.

A gathering of noncommunist groups held at the same time brightens Beijing's drab winter, drawing tech billionaires, movie stars and ethnic minorities in distinctive traditional dress.

That gives President Xi Jinping's government a platform for advertising changes aimed at ending the fight with President Donald Trump that has disrupted trade in goods from soybeans to medical equipment.

The technology measure is part of a proposed law on foreign investment that aims to address complaints by Washington, Europe and other trading partners that China's system is rigged against foreign companies.

Trump cited complaints Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology when he slapped punitive tariffs on $250 billion of Chinese imports in July. Europe, Japan and other trading partners disapprove of the tariff hikes but echo U.S. complaints.

China has balked at changing its strategy for nurturing technologies that American officials worry might challenge U.S. industrial dominance. But communist leaders face pressure to reach a settlement after economic growth sagged to a three-decade low of 6.6 percent last year.

On the domestic front, companies and investors are hoping officials announce details of how Beijing will carry out promises to curb the dominance of state industry and support entrepreneurs who generate much of China's new jobs and wealth. They are looking for details of a promised cut of up to 1.3 trillion yuan ($200 billion) in value-added and other taxes.

The congress opens Tuesday with an annual "work report" on government plans by Premier Li Keqiang, the No. 2 ruling party leader behind Xi and China's top economic official.

State media have cited other potential topics including revising China's patent law — another source of foreign complaints — and measures to encourage foreign investment in agriculture and technology and developing free-trade zones.

Chinese officials deny Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over trade secrets and technology. But they are trying to mollify Trump and other governments by promising better legal protections.

"I think the (American and European) complaints have been reflected in the revision of the law," said Citigroup economist Li-Gang Liu.

Under the proposed law, officials would be barred from using "administrative methods to force technology transfers."

The chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in China, Tim Stratford, called the measure a "step forward." But business groups say they need to see how it will be enforced.

It was unclear whether the vaguely worded measure would appease Trump. The American Embassy in Beijing said it had no comment.

Companies have been disappointed in the past after "hearing positive words," said Stratford, a former deputy U.S. trade representative.

French yellow vests protest for 16th straight weekend

PARIS (AP) — Thousands of French yellow vests protested Saturday for a 16th straight weekend in Paris and other cities to show they are keeping up momentum against the government's economic policies they see as favoring the rich.

In Paris, more than a thousand protesters marched peacefully through well-off western neighborhoods of the capital, starting from the Arc de Triomphe monument to reach a southern plaza. The demonstration was placed under tight security.

Police forces were dispersing dozens of protesters who remained near the Champs-Elysees avenue.

Many other rallies were organized across the country. Some brief scuffles between protesters and police broke out in the cities of Lyon, Lille and Nantes, but no serious injuries were reported.

Organizers said they want to maintain pressure on the government as a two-month "grand debate" initiated by Macron to let ordinary French people express their views on the country's economic and democratic issues is ending this month.

Sophie Tissier, a coordinator of the Paris protest, told The Associated Press that "we keep protesting every Saturday because Macron doesn't respond at all to the yellow vests' demands. We want to rebuild our democracy and change today's political system."

"Macron is contemptuous and ... does not even try to understand that there are people that are living in great poverty and precariousness, and that there are so many inequalities," she added.

Supports for the movement has ebbed in recent weeks as outbreaks of violence continue, including last month when a few protesters hurled a torrent of anti-Semitic insults at noted philosopher Alain Finkielkraut on the sidelines of a Paris march.

The movement was named after the fluorescent vests that French motorists must carry in their vehicles for emergencies.

The protests started in November to oppose fuel tax hikes, but have expanded into a broader public rejection of Macron's economic policies, which protesters say favor big businesses and the wealthy over ordinary workers.

Macron has since announced a package of measures worth about 10 billion euros ($11.4 billion) to boost workers' and retirees' purchasing power and launched a national debate that is taking place through meetings across France and a dedicated website until mid-March.

Many yellow vests reject the debate which they consider as politically driven to serve the government's interests.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Greece: debt upgrade reflects rising investor confidence

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece says a two-notch upgrade of its debt rating by Moody's Investors Service is a sign of renewed investor confidence in the country's economy. The finance ministry said in a statement Saturday that "reforms have started to produce results and the successive upgrades of the Greek economy show its steady upward trajectory and the regaining of investor confidence." Moody's upgraded Greece's debt from B3 to B1 Friday. This is still four levels below investment grade; Greece's Treasury bonds are still considered "high-yield" ones or, less charitably, junk.

Subaru recalls 1.3M vehicles in US for brake light problem

DETROIT (AP) — Subaru is recalling 1.3 million vehicles in the U.S. because the brake lights may not illuminate properly. The recall covers certain 2014 to 2016 Forester, 2008 through 2016 Impreza and 2013 through 2017 Crosstrek vehicles. Subaru says cleaning products containing silicone can emit a gas that can seep into the brake lamp switch and cut off the electrical contact. That can stop the brake lights from working but brakes will still function. The automaker says the problem doesn't happen very often. It has only 33 reports in the U.S. Subaru says it discovered the problem. It will reach out to affected customers and replace the switch. The recall is being done worldwide, but information about the number of vehicles affected and the models wasn't available Saturday.

State offers $270K in grants for food and farming businesses

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—The state is offering $270,000 in grant funding to help food and farming businesses start or expand their operations in Rhode Island. The state Department of Environmental Management says Friday is the application deadline. The department says the Local Agriculture and Seafood Act and Farm Viability grant programs, combined, have invested more than $3 million to accelerate growth of Rhode Island's green economy. Democratic Gov. Gina Raimondo says the investments aim to boost the vibrant food economy and support Rhode Island-grown agricultural products and local seafood. Grants of up to $20,000 are available through the Local Agriculture and Seafood Act program, with up to $120,000 available for the 2019 grant round. Grants of $10,000 to $50,000 are available through the Farm Viability program, with a total of $150,000 available.

UK: Blaze at Tesla service center under control

LONDON (AP)—Fire officials say they've brought a fire at a Tesla service center near London's Gatwick Airport under control. No one was hurt. The West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service were called to the service center on Saturday morning, finding the building "well alight." Some 50 firefighters and eight fire engines were scrambled to the scene in Crawley, about three miles (five kilometers) south of Gatwick. The service says the fire was believed to have started in a store room and spread to the main building. It is being treated as an accident. The fire comes just days after the Silicon Valley electric car manufacturer announced plans to close most of its dealerships worldwide and to sell vehicles online only, raising doubts about the future of its sites in the U.K.

Nation

‘Sanctuary’ cities are getting their grants despite threats

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)— About 18 months after the Trump administration threatened to withhold law enforcement grants from nearly 30 places around the country it felt weren’t doing enough to work with federal immigration agents, all but one have received or been cleared to get the money, the Justice Department said.

In most cases, courts chipped away at the crackdown that escalated in November 2017 with letters from the Justice Department of former Attorney General Jeff Sessions to 29 cities, metro areas, counties or states it considered as having adopted “sanctuary policies” saying those policies may violate federal law.

Of those 29 jurisdictions — which include cities as large as Los Angeles and as small as Burlington, Vermont — only Oregon has yet to be cleared to receive the grants from 2017, a Justice Department spokesman told The Associated Press this week.

Vermont officials announced Monday that they had been told the state Department of Public Safety would be getting $2.3 million in law enforcement grants that had been blocked. Vermont had not joined any of the legal cases, instead corresponding directly with the Justice Department.

U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, a Vermont Democrat, declared victory, saying the money would be used primarily on anti-drug efforts.

“State and local law enforcement agencies already are stretched thin, and withholding these federal grants only makes their work more difficult,” Leahy said in an email to the AP. “It’s unthinkable that the Trump Justice Department would hold these funds hostage over an unrelated dispute on immigration policy.”

Last summer, the U.S. Conference of Mayors sued in Illinois on behalf of its member cities focusing on the issue. In September, a federal court temporarily blocked the Justice Department from withholding the funds for the jurisdictions represented by the conference.

The conference’s litigation is now focused on making the order affecting the 2017 grants permanent and apply to 2018 grants, as well, said Kate O’Brien, a Chicago attorney who represented the mayors.

Other federal courts have ruled against the Justice Department. Similar cases are being litigated across the country, and the Justice Department is considering appealing some unfavorable rulings.

The Trump administration has long argued that places that don’t cooperate with federal immigration authorities, often called “sanctuary cities,” pose a threat to public safety.

“I continue to urge all jurisdictions under review to reconsider policies that place the safety of their communities and their residents at risk,” Sessions said in a statement in January 2018. “Protecting criminal aliens from federal immigration authorities defies common sense and undermines the rule of law.”

The details differ by jurisdiction, but the Justice Department felt law enforcement agencies in those communities weren’t sufficiently committing themselves to cooperating with federal immigration agents when officers came in contact with people who might not be in the country legally.

Aside from confirming the clearance of grants to the 28 jurisdictions , Justice Department spokesman Steven Stafford declined to comment.

AP

In this Feb. 26, 2018 file photo, a banner to welcome immigrants is shown through a fisheye lens over the main entrance to the Denver City and County Building.

ACROSS THE NATION

Snowbound Oregon man ate taco sauce packets, survived 5 days

BEND, Ore. (AP) — A man whose car was stranded in central Oregon snow for five days survived by eating taco sauce packets and starting the engine periodically to warm up. A snowmobiler found Jeremy Taylor, 36, of Sunriver, on Friday and a search and rescue team member who rode to him on a large snow tractor brought him out of the woods, said Sgt. William Bailey, the spokesman for the Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office. Taylor, an avid outdoorsman who loves to go off-roading, was last seen getting gas on Feb. 24 in Sunriver. He told his rescuers he and his dog, Ally, became stuck in deep snow on a U.S. Forest Service road later that same day. He slept in his car and when he awoke Monday, more snow had fallen. He attempted to hike out, but the snow was too deep, so Taylor and Ally returned to his car.

Police say teen was gunman who opened fire on NYC street

NEW YORK (AP)—A teenager has been charged with opening fire on a crowded New York City street, sending several people running for cover. A video circulated by the New York Police Department showed bystanders including a little girl running as the gunman fired several shots in the Bronx on Feb. 22. No one was hit by the gunfire. Police say 16-year-old Edgar Garcia was arrested Friday and is suspected of being the gunman in the video. Police say Garcia was aiming at another man who was down the block. Garcia faces charges including attempted murder, criminal use of a firearm and reckless endangerment. It’s not clear if he has and attorney who can speak for him.

Paper: $600,000 fine imposed on nursing home after outbreak

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—A newspaper reports that federal authorities have imposed a $600,000 fine on a New Jersey nursing home following a viral outbreak that killed 11 children. The North Jersey Record reports that the penalty stems from state and federal inspections at the Wanaque Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation during last fall’s outbreak. The inspections cited conditions posing “immediate jeopardy” to children dependent on ventilators and other pediatric and elderly residents. A letter from Lauren Reinertsen of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services said the convictions existed from Oct. 9 to Nov. 16. Officials said the center is now in compliance, although it can’t admit pediatric ventilator patients pending state approval of an infection-control plan. The center strongly disputes a federal report on the outbreak and is appealing.

No charges for police who shot 22-year-old California man

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Two Sacramento police officers won’t face criminal charges for the fatal shooting of a black man following a chase that ended in his grandparents’ yard and started a series of angry protests that roiled California’s capital city, the county’s top prosecutor announced Saturday following a nearly yearlong investigation.

Officers Terrance Mercadal and Jared Robinet acted within the law when they shot 22-year-old Stephon Clark seven times, Sacramento County District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert concluded, noting that the evidence supported their account that Clark was moving toward them when they opened fire.

Schubert said the evidence, including their reactions captured on body cameras, supported the officers’ statements that they thought Clark was pointing a gun.

It turned out Clark was holding only a cellphone. His family and their supporters expressed anger and disappointment, and accused Schubert of unnecessarily revealing grim details of Clark’s personal life.

“Whatever his character is or his actions prior to those officers gunning him down, is no one’s business,” said Clark’s mother, SeQuette, who had a brief and contentious meeting with Schubert before the DA made her announcement. “It’s not justification. That’s not a permit to kill him.”

Schubert said the decision not to file charges against the officers “does not diminish in any way the tragedy,” adding that “We cannot ignore that there is rage within our community.”

Before Schubert had finished speaking, Black Lives Matter began a demonstration where about 100 people eventually protested peacefully in chilly rain outside Sacramento’s police headquarters.

The shooting last March prompted larger demonstrations. Protesters twice disrupted games for the NBA’s Sacramento Kings, including one where they blocked thousands of fans from entering. That game was played in a nearly empty arena.

Schubert repeatedly apologized for raising the personal details during her hour-long presentation.

She revealed Clark was facing possible jail time after a domestic violence complaint two days earlier from Salena Manni, the mother of his two children. He also had researched suicide websites including those that suggested using a tranquilizer, which was among several drugs found in his system after his death.

“I can’t tell ultimately what was going on in his mind,” Schubert said. “He was in a state of despair and he was impaired, and that may have affected his judgment.”

The disclosures brought additional outcries from protest leaders and Clark’s relatives, including Manni, who said they weren’t relevant to whether the officers acted properly.

The decision continues “the shameful legacy of officers killing black men without consequences,” Manni said.

Black Lives Matter leader Tanya Faison criticized Schubert for providing details including text messages between Clark and Manni.

“Those officers didn’t know any of that when they had him in the backyard and they killed him,” Faison said.

SeQuette Clark held out the hope that her son’s death would result in systemic change, which was echoed by statements from Gov. Gavin Newsom, legislative leaders, Sacramento’s mayor and black religious leaders who urged protesters to channel their anger into positive steps.

“This is just the beginning. The fight for justice has just begun,” Clark’s mother said outside the home where her son was killed. Later, Clark’s grandmother, Sequita Thompson, was taken by ambulance to a hospital after falling ill. No details on her condition were available.

Several officials supported pending state legislation that would allow police to use deadly force only if there is no reasonable alternative, including non-lethal force or efforts to calm the situation. Newsom did not address the bill, but called for “systemic reforms that reduce inequities, increase community confidence in our criminal justice system, and that reinforce the sanctity of human life.”

Asia

Pompeo: US worried over Chinese moves threatening navigation

AP

Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr., left, and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo shake hands prior to their bilateral meeting in suburban Pasay city, southeast of Manila, Philippines Friday, March 1, 2019.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Thursday he would discuss U.S. concerns about Chinese actions that threaten freedom of navigation in the disputed South China Sea with Philippine officials during an overnight visit to Manila.

Pompeo arrived late Thursday and immediately met with President Rodrigo Duterte at an air base. He discussed with Duterte about unsuccessful talks between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Hanoi, which he also attended.

"We're worried that the Chinese are using their power in ways that will deny freedom of navigation in the region and that's important to every country in Asia, and Philippines included," Pompeo told reporters as he flew to Manila from Hanoi.

When asked if the U.S. was concerned about China's actions, Pompeo replied "absolutely," adding that Washington has a national security strategy to address the problem.

The long-seething territorial disputes are a key irritant between Washington and Beijing, which has turned several disputed barren reefs into islands with runways and other military facilities.

In addition to China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei also contest ownership of the strategic waters, where U.S. Navy ships have sailed close to Chinese-occupied islands to assert freedom of navigation.

Philippine Ambassador to Washington Jose Romualdez said by telephone that a proposed move to re-examine the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty between Washington and Manila was also expected to be discussed during Pompeo's meetings with Philippine officials.

Romualdez said the Philippines has sought a review of the 1951 treaty, which calls on the allies to come to each other's defense against an external attack, to update it. An initial meeting between Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and a Pentagon official will be held next month in Manila before formal talks begin, he said.

In the past, Filipino officials have tried to clarify whether the Philippines could invoke the treaty to seek U.S. help in case of an attack in the South China Sea.

Duterte, who took office in 2016, has been a challenge to the U.S. because of his frequent attacks on U.S. security policies and his crackdown on illegal drugs that has claimed the lives of thousands of mostly poor drug suspects. He lashed out at former President Barack Obama over criticisms of the crackdown but has had better relations with Trump, who has invited him to visit the White House.

Duterte has revived once-frigid ties with China and sought Chinese infrastructure funding and trade and investment. He has reached out to Russia and once threatened to end the presence of U.S. counterterrorism forces in the country, although that has not happened.

"This is a long-standing, deep relationship between our countries and I hope to go build on that with my counterpart Teodoro Locsin and President Duterte," Pompeo told reporters.

Duterte and Pompeo "reaffirmed the longstanding U.S.-Philippines alliance, discussing ways to improve cooperation on regional security and counterterrorism," Pompeo's deputy spokesman, Robert Palladino, said.

8 killed in India-Pakistan fighting amid high tensions

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Indian and Pakistani soldiers have again targeted each other's posts and villages along their volatile frontier in disputed Kashmir, killing at least six civilians and two Pakistani troops, officials said Saturday.

But in a sign that tensions between the nuclear-armed rivals could soon ease, a Pakistani Cabinet minister said a key train service between Pakistan and neighboring India would resume on Monday.

Tensions have been running high since Indian aircraft crossed into Pakistan this past Tuesday, carrying out what India called a pre-emptive strike against militants blamed for a Feb. 14 suicide bombing in Indian-controlled Kashmir that killed 40 Indian troops. Pakistan retaliated, shooting down a fighter jet Wednesday and detaining its pilot, who was returned to India on Friday in a peace gesture.

Fighting resumed overnight Friday. Pakistan's military said two of its soldiers were killed in an exchange of fire with Indian forces near the Line of Control that separates Kashmir between the rivals. It marked the first fatalities for Pakistani troops since Wednesday, when tensions dramatically escalated between the nuclear-armed countries over Kashmir, which is split between them but claimed by both in its entirety.

Indian police, meanwhile, said two siblings and their mother were killed in Indian-controlled Kashmir. The three died after a shell fired by Pakistani soldiers hit their home in the Poonch region near the Line of Control. The children's father was critically wounded.

In Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, government official Umar Azam said Indian troops with heavy weapons "indiscriminately targeted border villagers" along the Line of Control, killing a boy and wounding three other people. He said several homes were destroyed by Indian shelling.

Following a lull lasting a few hours, shelling and firing of small arms resumed Saturday. A Pakistani military statement said two civilians were killed and two others wounded in the fresh fighting. The Indian army said Pakistani troops attacked Indian posts at several places along the militarized line.

Since tensions escalated following last month's suicide attack, world leaders have scrambled to head off an all-out war between India and Pakistan. The rivals have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since their independence from British rule in 1947.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said Saturday that Russia had offered to serve as a mediator to ease tensions. He said Pakistan was ready to accept the offer, but he did not know whether India would agree as well.

Qureshi also said a top Saudi diplomat would soon visit Pakistan and India. Pakistani officials said China is expected to send an envoy to Pakistan and India this coming week.

The current violence marks the most serious escalation of the long-simmering conflict since 1999, when Pakistan's military sent a ground force into Indian-controlled Kashmir. That year also saw an Indian fighter jet shoot down a Pakistani naval aircraft, killing all 16 on board.

The latest wave of tensions began after the militant group Jaish-e-Mohammad claimed responsibility for the Feb. 14 suicide bombing by a Kashmiri militant on Indian paramilitary forces. India has long accused Pakistan of cultivating such militant groups to attack it. Pakistan has denied any involvement in the suicide attack.

Official: Taliban target army corps, killing 23 soldiers

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Taliban insurgents targeted an Afghan army corps at their camp in the southern Helmand province, killing at least 23, officials said Saturday.

Omar Zwak, spokesman for the provincial governor, said 20 other troops were wounded in the attack that began Friday and ended Saturday evening after a 40-hour battle in the Wahser district.

The death toll could rise after a final assessment, added Zwak.

As many as 40 security forces may have been killed, according to a provincial official who spoke anonymously as he was not authorized to brief the media.

Zwak added that military vehicles and offices were damaged by blasts and shooting in the attack.

Qari Yusouf Ahmadi, a Taliban spokesman, said in a statement that the insurgent group was responsible for the attack, which came even as Taliban negotiators met for talks with a U.S. peace envoy in the Middle Eastern state of Qatar.

He said Taliban fighters engaged both Afghan and foreign forces inside the camp and killed "scores."

Zwak said U.S. advisers were present in the base, but in a separate area. "The foreign forces present at the base were all safe as the Taliban could not reach that part of the compound," he said.

Zwak said the attack began when a suicide bomber detonated his explosives at Shorab camp. He said three other suicide bombers also blew themselves up as gunmen followed behind them. Zwak said 22 Taliban gunmen were killed in the fighting.

In recent years, the Taliban and the Islamic State group have carried out near-daily attacks in Afghanistan, mainly targeting the government and its security forces.

The Taliban control several district centers in Helmand, which is a major source of the world's illegal opium supply.

Camp Shorab was previously a British air base known as Camp Bastion.

In northern Sari Pul province, Taliban ambushed a convoy of Afghan security forces, killing nine, said Zabihullah Amani, spokesman for the provincial governor.

Amani said 12 other forces were wounded during the battle with insurgents that lasted seven hours Friday in Sangcharak district. "Four security forces are missing and believe to be taken alive by the insurgents," he said.

The forces were just returning from an operation in the district when they came under heavy fire, Amani said.

Zabiullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the Taliban, claimed responsibility for the attack.

World

Venezuela's Guaido, in Ecuador, says next stop is home

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido on Saturday said he will go home after concluding a visit to Ecuador, raising the prospect of a showdown with the government that he is trying to force from power.

"I'm announcing my return home from Ecuador," Guaido said after meeting its president, Lenin Moreno. He also called for protests in Venezuela on Monday and Tuesday, days that coincide with the country's Carnival season.

Guaido, who declared himself Venezuela's interim president and is recognized as so by the U.S. and 50 other nations, did not comment on the exact timing of his planned return to Venezuela. His spokesman, Edward Rodriguez, said "it's possible" that he will return on Monday.

"We have little to celebrate and a lot to do," said Guaido, who recently visited the leaders of Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina in a campaign to build pressure on Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro to resign.

His return from the trip opens the possibility that Venezuelan authorities will try to arrest him.

The opposition leader said he seeks a "peaceful transition" that will allow his homeland to overcome its political and humanitarian crisis. Last weekend, Guaido coordinated a failed effort to bring aid from Colombia and Brazil into Venezuela, where security forces loyal to Maduro blocked the supplies.

Maduro described Guaido's gambit as part of a U.S.-backed plot to overthrow him.

Moreno, who met Guaido in Ecuador's coastal city of Salinas, said he supported the opposition leader's attempt to bring "democratic change" to Venezuela.

AP

In this photo provided by Ecuador's Presidential Office, Ecuador's President Lenin Moreno, center right, and his wife Rocio Gonzalez, right, welcome Venezuela's self-declared interim president Juan Guaido, center left, and his wife Fabiana Rosales during a meeting in Salinas, Ecuador.

Chemical weapons watchdog says chlorine was used in Douma

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The global chemical weapons watchdog said Friday it found "reasonable grounds" that chlorine was used as a weapon in a deadly attack on the Syrian town of Douma last year.

The determination was contained in a detailed report by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons' fact finding mission that investigated the April 7, 2018 attack. Medical workers said at the time that the attack killed more than 40 people.

The mission's mandate does not include laying blame.

In a statement, the OPCW said the mission visited Douma, analyzed samples taken from the scene and from people affected, interviewed witnesses and studied toxicological and ballistics analyses.

The investigators were delayed by several days from reaching the scene by security concerns, leading to fears that evidence could degrade or be cleaned up.

However, the data they eventually amassed and studied provided "reasonable grounds that the use of a toxic chemical as a weapon" took place, the OPCW said.

"This toxic chemical contained reactive chlorine. The toxic chemical was likely molecular chlorine."

Survivors reached by The Associated Press in the aftermath of the attack said they were overwhelmed by the smell of chlorine on the night of April 7. Activists said many of the dead were found with foam around their mouths, an indicator for suffocation. Medical workers said they treated symptoms including difficulty breathing and fainting.

The United States, Britain and France blamed Syrian government forces and launched punitive airstrikes. Syria denied responsibility.

Douma was the final target of the government's sweeping campaign to seize back control of the eastern Ghouta suburbs of Damascus from rebels after seven years of revolt. Militants gave up the town days after the alleged attack.

The OPCW said the report has been sent to the United Nations Security Council.

Russia, a staunch ally of Syrian President Bashar Assad, rejected claims that Syria was responsible for the attack and even brought what it called witnesses to The Hague to describe their experiences.

In a tweet Friday, the Russian embassy in The Hague said the OPCW reached its finding, "in spite of all the evidence presented by Russia, Syria, and even British journalists that the Douma incident is no more than 'White helmets' staged provocation."

A joint investigative mechanism between the United Nations and OPCW, set up in 2015, was responsible for apportioning blame, but it was disbanded after Russia vetoed an extension of its mandate at the UN Security Council. Moscow claimed the team was not professional or objective in its investigations.

The team accused Syria of using chlorine gas in at least two attacks in 2014 and 2015 and the nerve agent sarin in an aerial attack on Khan Sheikhoun in April 2017 that killed about 100 people and affected about 200 others. The latter attack led to a U.S. airstrike on a Syrian airfield.

The team also accused the Islamic State extremist group of using mustard gas twice in 2015 and 2016.

Former Yazidi captives of IS reunite with families in Iraq

GERSHIN, Iraq (AP) — A group of Yazidi women and children reunited with their families in Iraq Saturday after five years of captivity at the hands of the Islamic State group, hugging and kissing relatives in emotional scenes that underscored their yearslong ordeal and that of their devastated community.

Elated families met their loved ones at a rural truck stop on the road between Sinjar and Dohuk, tossing candy in the air like confetti, the women ululating with joy.

The 18 returning children, aged 10 to 15, appeared weary and at times uneasy with the attention of the media and officials. One teenage boy collapsed in his aunt's arms and broke down in tears. Few parents were there to receive their children — many are still missing in territory held by the Islamic State, or have been confirmed killed. Other parents have already sought asylum in Western nations, in the hopes their children will be able to follow them.

Still, the children could not hide their joy at being hugged and kissed once more by their relatives after the long and traumatic separation.

They included 11 boys that many fear were trained in military camps by IS, though they all denied it. Only days since escaping the extremist group, the children were struggling to come to terms with their ordeal.

"They treated us well," said 13-year-old Milad Hussein Khalaf. He said the militants separated him from his family when they were abducted in 2014 and sent the then-8-year-old to be raised by an IS family.

About 3,000 Yazidis are still missing after IS militants stormed their communities in the Sinjar region in northwest Iraq in 2014, and enslaved, raped and killed thousands of worshippers of the esoteric faith. The extremist group considers the Kurdish-speaking religious minority to be heretics.

The group of 3 Yazidi women and 18 children who reunited with their families Saturday are among thousands of civilians who emerged in the last few days from the last speck of territory held by the Islamic State group in the village of Baghouz, in eastern Syria. They crossed into Iraq from Syria on Friday, and were picked up by their families on Saturday.

Khalaf said his IS family put him in a religious school and he's learned to recite passages from the Quran which he studied every day. Khalaf's older cousin, Siri Ali, used a video chat app on her phone so her sisters in Canada could see him arrive. She said Khalaf doesn't know that his parents are still missing.

"Thank God, they have returned and they are among us. This child does not have a mother or a father. We are going to be his parents," said Khalaf's other cousin, Noura Ali.

"We thank all the sides that worked together to rescue them, and we hope that the rest of the missing people will return."

Khalaf said there are still children in Baghouz, but he couldn't know how many.

Also among the arrivals was Dilbar Ali Ravu, 10. He looked slightly stunned, but also couldn't hide his joy. His uncle, Jihad Ravu, said Dilbar developed lesions on his face while he was being held in a cell in Tal Afar in the early days of his captivity, after he was abducted five years ago. He says Dilbar hasn't had proper medical treatment since then.

Susan Fahmy, a coordinator for the NGO Khalsa Aid, said she is certain all the boys were sent to training and that they need years of rehabilitation.

She said some Yazidi boys have been caught communicating with IS a year after they returned. She also said women are being pressured to give up their children fathered by IS men, and was alarmed that one of the women arrived without her kids.

Focus

AP

From left, transgender military members Navy Lt. Cmdr. Blake Dremann, Army Capt. Alivia Stehlik, Army Capt. Jennifer Peace, Army Staff Sgt. Patricia King and Navy Petty Officer Third Class Akira Wyatt, are briefed about hearing procedures before the start of a House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019, as the Trump administration pushes to ban transgender troops.

Transgender troops tell Congress they excel in military

By JULIE WATSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Transgender troops testifying for the first time to Congress on Wednesday said transitioning to another sex made them stronger, while Pentagon officials defended the Trump administration's desire to bar people like them from enlisting in the future.

Army Capt. Alivia Stehlik, an infantry officer and graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. and Ranger School, told lawmakers she became a more "effective soldier" after she transitioned from male to female in 2017.

"What is the value of having transgender people in the military? Based on my experience first as a combat arms officer and medical provider, the answer is unequivocally that my transition—and so many others—has dramatically increased the readiness and lethality of every branch of the armed forces," said Stehlik, who returned from a deployment to Afghanistan a month ago where she treated soldiers as a physical therapist.

With the ban now blocked by lawsuits, active-duty transgender service members were invited to testify at the hearing called by Democratic Rep. Jackie Speier, chairwoman of the military personnel subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee.

Speier said the ban is "discriminatory, unconstitutional and self-defeating" and said the Obama administration's 2016 lifting of the barrier to allow transgender people to serve has been an "unequivocal success."

She added that barring transgender people again "would cost us recruits at a time when so few Americans are willing to serve." She called the five transgender troops who testified Wednesday "exceptional, but also exceptionally normal."

Retired Air Force Gen. James N. Stewart, who is now performing the duties of the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, defended the Trump administration's policy, which is currently blocked by litigation.

He said current transgender troops will be allowed to continue to serve and other transgender people can join the military if they serve in their biological sex and have not been diagnosed with gender dysphoria, a condition under which people experience distress if they do not identify with their birth gender.

"It's not a ban on transgender individuals," he insisted.

Stewart added that "special accommodations" cannot be made for people with such a medical condition.

Maryland Democratic Rep. Anthony Brown said the same argument was used to keep blacks from integrating into the Army in 1948 and again in the 1990s to keep gay people from serving openly under the don't ask, don't tell policy, which was repealed by Congress in 2010.

He said barring people who have undergone treatment for gender dysphoria and transitioned to another sex is equivalent to banning transgender people.

"You're transgender and only if you agree not to transition, then you can serve, that's just like 'don't ask, don't tell,'" he said.

In the nearly three years since the U.S. military welcomed transgender people into the armed forces, they have largely served without incident. Some, like Army attack helicopter pilot Lindsey Muller, have earned prestigious medals or received other forms of recognition.

"Once you meet transgender people who have served in the different branches ... it's really hard to dismiss the fact that you will find Purple Heart recipients, Bronze Star winners, attack aviators, Navy SEALs," said Muller, who did not testify but is a plaintiff in one of four lawsuits challenging the ban. "We've been here, and we will continue to be here regardless. In what capacity is up to the administration."

President Donald Trump has argued that their presence is a burden and cited "tremendous medical costs" as a reason for the ban.

According to new data from the Defense Department provided to the House Armed Services Committee ahead of the hearing, the military has spent about $8 million on transgender care since 2016. The military's annual health care budget tops $50 billion.

An estimated 14,700 troops on active duty and in the Reserves identify as transgender but not all seek treatment.

Military chiefs testified before Congress last year that they found no problems with transgender troops on morale or unit cohesion. The five transgender troops who testified Wednesday said their medical transitions took anywhere from four weeks to four months and they did most of it on their own time. All were fit to return to deploying afterward.

They said recovery from pregnancy and shoulder surgery takes much longer.

The Defense Department treated 1,525 service members between July 1, 2016 and February 1, 2019, who were diagnosed with gender dysphoria. Currently about 1,071 are serving, including 20 senior officers.

The military spent about $8 million on transgender care, including about $5.8 million on psychotherapy and about $2 million on surgeries mostly for breast reductions and hysterectomies. There were about 23,000 psychotherapy visits and about 160 surgeries.

Mississippi Rep. Trent Kelly, the committee's ranking Republican member, said not everyone can join the military because of its "stringent medical and behavioral health standards needed to maintain a ready and resilient force. However, it only makes sense that any individual who can meet these standards and is otherwise qualified should be allowed to serve."

Health & Wellness

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Why diets backfire: A year or more after weight loss, the desire to eat grows stronger

By MELISSA HEALY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Losing weight is, for most people, the easy part. The bigger challenge is trying to keep it off for more than a year.

New research helps explain why people in this second stage are so much more prone to failure.

In a nutshell, people who have shed a significant chunk of their weight are hungrier and have a stronger desire to eat for at least a year after transitioning from weight loss to weight-loss maintenance. And even when their hormones send loud satiety signals to the brain after a meal, they still don't feel full.

The new study, published Thursday in the American Journal of Physiology-Endocrinology and Metabolism, falls in line with a growing field of research that explores the body's tenacious and multi-pronged response to weight loss.

In a bid to ensure that lost weight is regained, the human body has been found to reset its thermostat to burn fuel more efficiently, to economize in calorie-burning movements and to rev up the impulse to find and eat food.

Researchers believe these responses evolved to protect humans against wasting away during times of famine. But in societies where calorific foods are never in short supply, these adaptations have worked to the detriment of dieters.

Moreover, in people who have become obese, there's growing suspicion that these responses become harder to override. In recent years, researchers have found evidence that obesity makes the brain more "deaf" to some of the gut's satiety signals, and more keenly attuned to signals of hunger.

The new research offers some validation for that surmise.

To study the effects of weight loss in 35 severely obese subjects, Norwegian researchers helped them lose close to a tenth of their weight. They provided dietary advice, exercise coaching and psychotherapy during several three-week stays at a wooded retreat in eastern Norway. All the subjects had a body-mass index greater than 42 (a BMI over 30 is considered obese) at the outset of the study.

At one year, when subjects had lost an average of close to 24 pounds, they returned to the retreat to map out maintenance plans.

Every six months from enrollment to two years out, researchers checked in to conduct a series of tests. Before and for three hours after meals, they gauged subjects' subjective feelings of hunger, fullness and desire to eat, and asked how much food they planned to consume. And they measured circulating levels of five separate hormones that regulate appetite to see how they responded to the prospect of a meal or a meal just eaten.

What they found was the body's reaction to weight loss shifted over time.

In the short run—four weeks after their exercise-and-weight-loss regimens got underway—the subjects had lost an average of 3.5 percent of their body weight. Their levels of appetite-boosting hormones had risen rapidly—probably a response to their getting roughly 3½ hours of exercise per day while at the retreat.

But they did not report increased hunger or desire to eat. And with rising levels of satiety hormones, they were feeling more full in the wake of eating a meal.

As they met their weight-loss goals, however, things changed.

At the end of a year of dieting and exercise, the study's participants had lost about 7.4 percent of their weight and had improved their fitness considerably. But they reported to researchers a significant increase in their hunger and desire to eat. And the sensations of fullness they reported after meals had plummeted.

Two years after enrolling in the study—and a year into their weight-maintenance programs—the subjects had, on average, kept the weight from coming back. But they continued to report levels of hunger and desire to eat that were just as high or higher than at the end of Year One. And they reported feeling no more full after a meal.

At both time points, their hormone levels continued to show increases in appetite-stimulating compounds, as well as those that would signal fullness. Though they lost the weight and—with the study's unusual level of support—managed to keep it off, they were hearing the loud cries of their hunger-boosting hormones. The fullness ones, not so much.

The good news, according the researchers: A sustained and supportive program of dietary restriction and physical activity does induce weight loss and can help very obese patients keep the weight off.

The bad news: "Patients with severe obesity who have lost significant amounts of weight … will have to deal with increased hunger in the long-term."

If these patients are to beat the odds and sustain their weight loss, professionals working with them will have to find ways to help them cope with that, they added.

Is a low carb diet dangerous?

By KAREN D'SOUZA
THE MERCURY NEWS

Pasta. Sourdough. Mashed potatoes. If you are one of the legions of dieters out there who have been religiously cutting carbs in an attempt to get lean and fit, you may be surprised by a recent study that showed that low carb diets may not be healthy after all. In fact, they may be unsafe.

Research presented at the European Society of Cardiology Congress in Germany found that diets very low in carbohydrates may actually increase the risk of premature death over time. Yikes.

The author of the study, Professor Maciej Banach, of the Medical University of Lodz, Poland, said: "We found that people who consumed a low carbohydrate diet were at greater risk of premature death. Risks were also increased for individual causes of death including coronary heart disease, stroke, and cancer. These diets should be avoided."

The study—which has not been published in a peer-reviewed journal—used diet and health data from almost 25,000 people collected through the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey between 1999 and 2010, according to Time. The researchers found that over an average of 6.4 years of follow-up, people who consumed the lowest amount of carbohydrates had a 32 percent higher risk of total mortality, a roughly 50 percent higher risk of dying from vascular diseases and a 36 percent higher risk of dying from cancer, compared to people who ate the most carbs.

As Banach said: "Low carbohydrate diets might be useful in the short term to lose weight, lower blood pressure, and improve blood glucose control, but our study suggests that in the long-term they are linked with an increased risk of death from any cause, and deaths due to cardiovascular disease, cerebrovascular disease, and cancer."

Part of the problem may be that people who eliminate carbs might be pigging out on high fat foods instead. As Despina Hyde, a registered dietitian at NYU Langone's Weight Management Program, told Time: "When you're not eating carbs, you have to eat something. We tend to eat higher protein and higher fat (on a low-carb diet)," Hyde says. Plus, "carbohydrates are the only source we have of fiber, and fiber is great for reducing risk of breast cancer, lowering our cholesterol and making us feel full for longer."

Apparently it's possible to have too much or too little carbohydrate in your life.

"These findings bring together several strands that have been controversial," co-author Walter Willett at Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health said in a statement that USA Today cited. "Too much and too little carbohydrate can be harmful but what counts most is the type of fat, protein, and carbohydrate."

Although it's not a sexy answer, the best path may well be moderation. Eating carbs is good for us, as long as we are choosing good carbs. Think black beans, fruit, quinoa and whole grains. You can feel free to cut back on stuff like white bread, white pasta and cookies.

Life & Style

Publicist: Luke Perry hospitalized and 'under observation'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Riverdale" and "Beverly Hills, 90210" star Luke Perry has been hospitalized, his publicist said Thursday.

Arnold Robinson tells The Associated Press on that the 52-year-old actor is "currently under observation" at the hospital.

Paramedics responded to a 911 call at about 9:30 a.m. Wednesday at a home in the Sherman Oaks section of Los Angeles and took a patient to a hospital, the city's fire department said. Public records list the address as Perry's.

No reason for the hospitalization or any details on his condition were given.

Perry has played construction construction-company owner Fred Andrews, father of main character Archie Andrews, for three seasons on "Riverdale," the CW series that gives a dark take on "Archie" comics, and has been slated for a fourth.

The CW declined comment on Perry.

Born and raised in rural Fredericktown, Ohio, Perry was tapped for heartthrob status along with Jason Priestley on "Beverly Hills 90210," which ran from 1990 to 2000.

Perry has had roles in a handful of films, including "The Fifth Element," ''8 Seconds" and "American Strays." He appeared in HBO's prison drama "Oz" and voiced cartoons like "The Incredible Hulk" and "Mortal Kombat." In recent years he starred in the series "Ties That Bind" and "Body of Proof."

The same day he was hospitalized, Fox TV announced that it would be running a six-episode return of "90210" that features most of the original cast, but Perry was not among those announced.

In this Aug. 6, 2018, file photo, Luke Perry, a cast member in the CW series "Riverdale," poses for a portrait during the 2018 Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour in Beverly Hills, Calif. AP

Trump claims Cohen book transcript would prove ex-aide lied

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump claimed Friday that his former lawyer Michael Cohen shopped a book to publishers that portrayed Trump in a favorable light, vastly at odds with Cohen's damning testimony to Congress.

In a tweet, Trump said that Cohen's manuscript was a "love letter" to him and that Congress should demand the manuscript as evidence Cohen's testimony this week was "fraudulent" and "dishonest."

Cohen told a House panel Trump was a "racist," ''a con man" and "a cheat." He testified that Trump used his inner circle to cover up politically damaging allegations about extramarital sex and lied throughout the 2016 election campaign about his business interests in Russia.

"Congress must demand the transcript of Michael Cohen's new book, given to publishers a short time ago," Trump tweeted. "Your heads will spin when you see the lies, misrepresentations and contradictions against his Thursday testimony. Like a different person! He is totally discredited!"

Cohen testified to the House oversight committee in public Wednesday and to a House intelligence panel behind closed doors on Thursday.

In this Feb. 27, 2019 file photo, Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump›s former personal lawyer, is sworn in to testify before the House Oversight and Reform Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington. AP

Reports last year indicated that Cohen was shopping a book, one favorable about Trump, and that Cohen had an agreement with a Hachette Book Group imprint before his legal troubles ended the deal.

Cohen's spokesman, Lanny Davis, said Friday that Cohen was offered a "substantial advance" nearly a year ago "for a proposal regarding a book on understanding Donald Trump. Mr. Cohen ultimately elected not to proceed."

Davis added that "POTUS has yet lied again."

A person familiar with negotiations confirmed that Cohen's book was submitted for auction and that Hachette discussed an offer but didn't reach a deal. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the person wasn't authorized to speak publicly.

Cohen, who is expected to begin a three-year prison sentence in May, told the House oversight committee on Wednesday that "it seems unbelievable that I was so mesmerized by Donald Trump that I was willing to do things for him that I knew were absolutely wrong."

Khloe Kardashian absolves Woods of homewrecking, not pain

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Khloe Kardashian is having a change of heartache: She blames Tristan Thompson, not Jordyn Woods, for breaking up her family.

In a series of tweets, Kardashian went from calling out Woods as a homewrecker to absolving her of that. But she didn't forgive Woods everything.

"What's been harder & more painful is being hurt by someone so close to me. Someone whom I love & treat like a little sister. But Jordyn is not to be blamed for the break-up of my family. This was Tristan's fault," Kardashian posted Saturday on Twitter.

Cleveland Cavalier player Thompson is the father of Kardashian's baby, True. Thompson's agent Rich Paul declined to comment.

Woods' interview Friday on Jada Pinkett Smith's Facebook Watch show, "Red Table Talk," prompted Kardashian's two-day tweet barrage.

On Pinkett Smith's show, Woods sought to counter social media speculation over what happened with Thompson when she and a group of girlfriends went to a party at the basketball player's Los Angeles home after a night out.

She stayed at Thompson's house until the following morning and, as she left, he took her by surprise with a kiss on the lips, Woods told Pinkett Smith, the actress and a close friend who had counseled her to speak out.

"I didn't know how to feel. I was like, 'That didn't just happen,'" Woods said, adding that nothing else happened with Thompson. Woods also said she's confident she isn't the reason Kardashian and Thompson aren't together.

Kardashian, who is not married to Thompson and maintained a relationship after he cheated on her late in her pregnancy, shot back at Woods on Twitter after the interview.

"If you're going to try and save yourself by going public, INSTEAD OF CALLING ME PRIVATELY TO APOLOGIZE FIRST, at least be HONEST about your story. BTW, You ARE the reason my family broke up!" Kardashian tweeted Friday.

Her posts Saturday took a different tack. Kardashian said in one she was a "roller-coaster of emotions & have said things I shouldn't have," later tweeting it was time to move on with life and count her blessings, including "my beautiful baby True."

Woods was the best friend of Kardashian sister Kylie Jenner, a beauty mogul and the youngest sibling on reality TV's "Keeping up with the Kardashians." Woods, who moved out of Jenner's Los Angeles area guest house after the rumors flared, told Pinkett Smith she's been unfairly vilified.

Johnny Depp sues ex-wife for $50M in defamation suit

FAIRFAX, Va. (AP)—Actor Johnny Depp is suing his ex-wife, actress Amber Heard, in a $50 million defamation lawsuit, citing a piece she wrote for The Washington Post about domestic abuse.

The complaint, filed Friday in the Circuit Court of Fairfax, Virginia, said that, while Depp was not named in the Post article, it was clear Heard was talking about him. The lawsuit called her ongoing allegations of domestic abuse "categorically and demonstrably false."

"They were part of an elaborate hoax to generate positive publicity for Ms. Heard and advance her career," the lawsuit said, claiming that "she is the perpetrator."

The suit said Depp, 55, has suffered financial losses because of the accusations, including being dropped from his role as Capt. Jack Sparrow in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" films.

In her article, published in the Post in December, Heard also said she lost an acting role and contract with a major fashion brand because went public with her claims of abuse.

"I spoke up against sexual violence—and faced our culture's wrath," the 32-year-old actress wrote, adding that she felt as those she was "on trial in the court of public opinion."

Heard's publicists and attorney did not return phone calls or emails from The Associated Press seeking comment on Saturday.

In a statement to People magazine, her attorney Eric M. George called the lawsuit "frivolous" and "just the latest of Johnny Depp's repeated efforts to silence Amber Heard."

Depp's attorney, Adam Waldman, responded to People that he and his client looked forward to presenting "overwhelming video, photographic and eyewitness evidence" that would clear Depp's name.

Heard first accused Depp of domestic violence in May 2016, the year after they were married. After Heard brought a photo of her with a bruised face to court, a judge ordered Depp to stay away from her. The couple met on the set of their 2011 film "The Rum Diary." Their divorce was finalized in 2017.

Winfrey to interview Jackson accusers in post-film special

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An Oprah Winfrey interview with two men who say Michael Jackson sexually abused them as boys will air immediately after a documentary on the men.

HBO and the Oprah Winfrey Network announced Wednesday that the special, "Oprah Winfrey Presents: After Neverland," will air simultaneously on both channels Monday at 10 p.m. Eastern and Pacific. That's just after the conclusion of the two-night airing of "Leaving Neverland."

The networks say the pretaped interview by Winfrey will be with Wade Robson and James Safechuck, and the film's director, Dan Reed in front of an audience of people affected by sexual abuse.

The family and estate of Jackson , who died in 2009, have denounced the documentary and HBO's decision to air it, saying it spreads falsehoods about a man not alive to defend himself.

New Disney area to immerse parkgoers in a Star Wars story

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The world of Star Wars is coming from a galaxy far, far away to become the largest single-themed land created in a Disney park.

Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge is an adventure through the grungy planet Batuu where guests can build their own droids and lightsabers, interact with aliens and climb into the cockpit of the massive Millennium Falcon, where you will discover your mission and engage in a dogfight with Tie Fighters.

The sprawling 14-acre land is set on a remote world in the newest "Star Wars" trilogy—so don't expect appearances by Luke Skywalker or Darth Vader. But some familiar faces including Rey, Finn, Kylo Ren and fan-favorite Chewbacca will be a part of the adventure as visitors explore the immersive world.

Galaxy's Edge is set to open this summer at the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, California, then in the fall at Disney's Hollywood Studios in Orlando, Florida. The lands at both parks are nearly identical and offer a mix of trading outposts, a cantina and even a wooded area where Resistance fighters have set up camp. Entry is included with a park ticket, but it'll cost more for guests who want to create their own lightsaber or purchase their own droid modeled on R2-D2 or BB-8.

Walt Disney Parks and Resorts chairman Bob Chapek said guests inside Galaxy's Edge will have persistent interaction with Star Wars elements, whether it's Stormtroopers barking orders or the up-tempo, swinging music of a grimy cantina that yes, serves Star Wars-themed alcohol.

"You will not think you're in a theme park," he said. "Every cast member will be in character, the food and beverage and language will be in story. The merchandise inside the shops won't be in boxes that say Disney on them. Everything is very, very immersive."

In a behind-the-scenes look, park officials took The Associated Press on a tour of Batuu, an uncharted region of lush trees and spires. The land is also filled with smugglers and traders hoping to avoid the First Order, the successor of the evil Galactic Empire.

Galaxy's Edge is still under construction, but its buildings, shops and main attractions are in place. Right now the focus is on "cosmetics and making sure the equipment is working properly," said John Larena, executive creative director at Walt Disney Imagineering.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Rocker Jerry Lee Lewis suffers stroke, expected to recover

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Rock 'n' roll pioneer Jerry Lee Lewis is recovering after a minor stroke, but he's expected to make a full recovery. A statement from his publicist says the 83-year-old Rock & Roll Hall of Famer had a stroke Thursday night and is recuperating in Memphis. His publicist, Zach Farnum, said no scheduled shows have been affected. Nicknamed "The Killer," Lewis is known for his outrageous energy and piano skills on songs like "Great Balls of Fire" and "Whole Lotta Shakin'." He is scheduled to perform at the 50th anniversary of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in April and his publicist said he has plans to record a gospel album soon.

Nielsen estimates about 16 million watched Michael Cohen

NEW YORK (AP) — The Nielsen company says that 15.8 million people watched President Donald Trump's former lawyer, Michael Cohen, testify against him on television before a congressional committee. Nielsen estimated the viewership on eight different networks between 9:45 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Wednesday. The number contrasts with the 20.4 million who watched the daytime testimony of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh before a Senate committee last September. Fans of Fox News Channel were responsible for the bulk of the difference. They were far more interested in watching Kavanaugh deny a woman's accusations that he had groped her drunkenly at a high school party than a lawyer, a convicted felon himself, denounce the president as a racist, con man and cheat. An estimated 5.7 million people watched Kavanaugh on Fox last year, while 2.3 million turned on Fox for Cohen coverage, Nielsen said Friday. CBS, with 3.06 million viewers, led the networks for Cohen coverage, followed by ABC's 2.95 million. MSNBC (2.82 million) beat its broadcast sister, NBC (2.48 million). CNN had just under 2.1 million.

Aretha Franklin complained about missing money before death

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — Authorities in suburban Detroit are investigating whether someone cheated singer Aretha Franklin by cashing a $178,000 check before her death last August. Oakland County chief assistant prosecutor Paul Walton says Franklin filed a complaint with Bloomfield Township police in June about a missing check. She died weeks later of pancreatic cancer at age 76. Walton told The Detroit News that Franklin's death has affected the investigation. He says it's been "difficult to determine" if she gave the check to someone who actually had permission to cash it. He says police have talked to the person who cashed the check. He declined to release a name. Walton says the check could become a separate issue for lawyers, family members and creditors involved in Franklin's estate in Oakland County court.

Jaden Smith's foundation bringing clean water to Flint

FLINT, Mich. (AP) — Jaden Smith's foundation and a church are working to bring cleaner water to Flint, Michigan. The rapper's organization and First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church on Friday announced they'll deploy a mobile water filtration system known as "The Water Box" that reduces lead and other potential contaminants. The 20-year-old's JUST goods company collaborated with the church to design and engineer the system. He is the son of Will and Jada Pinkett Smith. The church has distributed over 5 million bottles of water to residents, but bottled water donations are on the decline. Flint has been replacing water lines after lead-tainted water was discovered in 2014. Lead began leaching from pipes after the city tapped the Flint River for drinking water without properly treating it to reduce corrosion.

Lady Gaga: Bradley Cooper duet was acting, not love

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It was acting, not love, when Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper sang a duet Sunday at the 91st Academy Awards. Gaga discussed the emotional performance of "Shallow" from their film "A Star Is Born" during an appearance Wednesday on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live ." The duet led online posters to say the stars are in love. The artist rolled her eyes and called social media "the toilet of the internet," saying it has hurt pop culture. Gaga said, "Yes, people saw love and guess what, that's what we wanted you to see." Gaga says it was a love song in a love story and they had "worked all week on that performance." She said, "I guess we did a good job. Fooled ya! Gaga brought her Oscar for "Shallow" to the show.

Booker Prize for fiction secures new financial backer

LONDON (AP) — Britain's leading literary award, the Booker Prize, found a new financial backer Thursday after its sponsor of almost two decades pulled out. Prize trustees said the Crankstart Foundation will become the sponsor in June. The charity was founded by Silicon Valley venture capitalist Michael Moritz and his wife, writer Harriet Heyman. Crankstart has committed to funding the Booker Prize for English-language novels and the International Booker Prize for translated works for at least five years. The prize's previous sponsor, the investment firm Man Group PLC, announced last month that it was stopping its funding after 18 years. Founded in 1969, the 50,000-pound ($67,000) Booker Prize was originally open to writers from Britain, Ireland and the Commonwealth. U.S. authors became eligible in 2014, a move that remains contentious. Anna Burns won the 2018 prize for her novel "Milkman."

'Beverly Hills, 90210' cast reunites, 'irreverence' in store

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The original stars of "Beverly Hills, 90210" are planning a high school reunion with a twist. Fox said Wednesday that cast members including Jason Priestly and Jennie Garth will play "heightened versions" of themselves in a six-part series airing this summer. Fox says the drama titled "90210" is inspired by the cast's real lives and relationships, combined with what it termed a "healthy dose of irreverence." Ian Ziering, Gabrielle Carteris, Brian Austin Green and Tori Spelling also will star in the series. The action begins when one of the cast suggests they try to launch a reboot of "Beverly Hills, 90210." The original series aired from 1990 to 2000 and followed a circle of friends in high school and young adulthood. A date for the new series wasn't announced.

Once-close sibling drifts away after nephew's birth

DEAR ABBY: I have always been close to my oldest brother and his wife. I'm 24 years younger than they are. In some ways, I think I was like a child to them because they were never able to have children naturally or through adoption.

Ever since I had my first child two years ago, they have become distant. They skip family occasions and don't send gifts anymore. (I don't care about the material items, but they used to send me very thoughtful gifts.) My brother has gotten angry at me over how I feed my son (I don't give him sweets), and says he will no longer be around me if food is involved. He's late to return emails I send. This hurts immensely.

My brother is a straight shooter. When I asked him if I did something to offend him, he said no, but his behavior suggests otherwise. I feel like by having children, I have lost part of my family. Is there anything I can do?

SAD SIS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR SIS: Because your brother is a "straight shooter," get to the point and tell him you are hurt because of the change in his behavior. Then ask him to explain what's going on. Unless you know for sure what has caused it, there is nothing you can do.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for two years and everything is great. We rarely fight. The only thing that's bothering me is my husband has never asked me about my past lovers —never asked how many or any other details. I have had quite a past. He hasn't. I feel bad because I feel like I'm hiding it from him. Should I forget about it, unless he mentions it? Even then, I'm afraid to tell him the real number.

TORN UP IN THE EAST

DEAR TORN UP: You were entitled to have a life before you met the man you eventually married. These days, most men and women have a past, so please stop flogging yourself with guilt over yours. Your past is over. Concentrate on your present. Your husband obviously loves you exactly the way you are. Your history has made you the person you are.

DEAR ABBY: I need help. I am a middle school drama teacher. Five years ago, one of my eighth graders and a friend snuck out late at night during a sleepover. While attempting to cross an interstate highway, my student was struck by a car and killed.

A few days ago, as I was clearing space off an old external hard drive, I found a 90-second video of my deceased student doing a play audition a couple of months before her demise. It is a middle close-up (waist to head) and very clear. It's probably one of the last videos of her with such high quality. My question is, five years after her funeral, should I reach out to her parents or would that be too painful for them?

REACHING OUT

DEAR REACHING OUT: I'm glad you asked. Contact the parents, tell them about your discovery and ask whether they would like to have it. I would be very surprised if they didn't. They will probably regard it as an unexpected gift.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

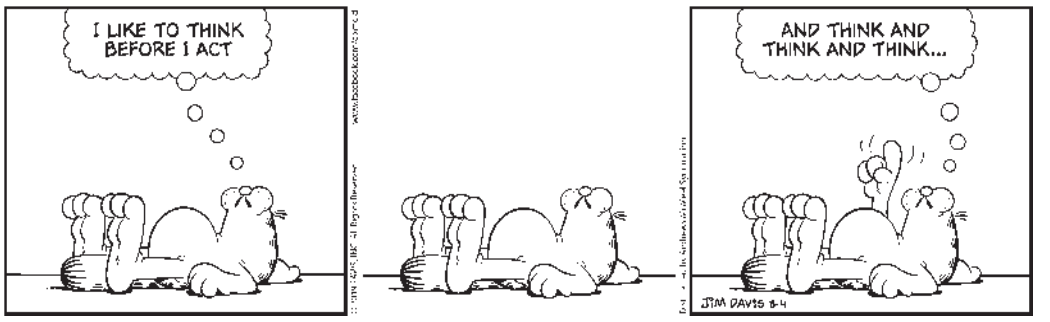
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

GOSH, I CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY BEANIE! I HOPE IT COMES SOON. DO YOU THINK IT WILL? IT'S PROBABLY BEEN ALMOST SIX WEEKS BY NOW, DON'T YOU THINK?
I ORDERED THE RED BEANIE. BUT WHAT IF IT'S NOT IN STOCK? SHOULD I TAKE THE BLUE ONE, OR WAIT FOR THEM TO REORDER? A BLUE ONE WOULD BE OK, I GUESS, BUT I SURE HOPE THEY HAVE A RED ONE.
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED A BEANIE LIKE THIS, WITH A PROPELLER. BOY, IT'LL BE SO COOL WHEN I HAVE IT. I CAN'T WAIT. WOW! A RED BEANIE! ...OR A BLUE ONE. DO YOU THINK IT WILL COME TOMORROW? DO YOU?
IT HAD SURE BETTER.
YEAH, THAT'S HOW I FEEL, TOO.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

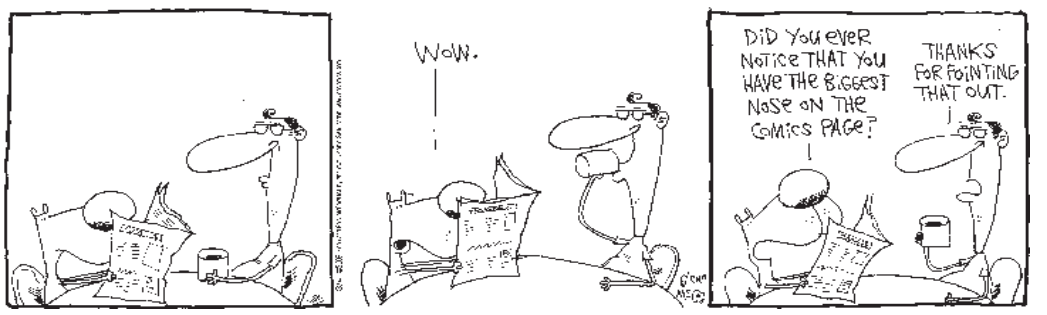


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

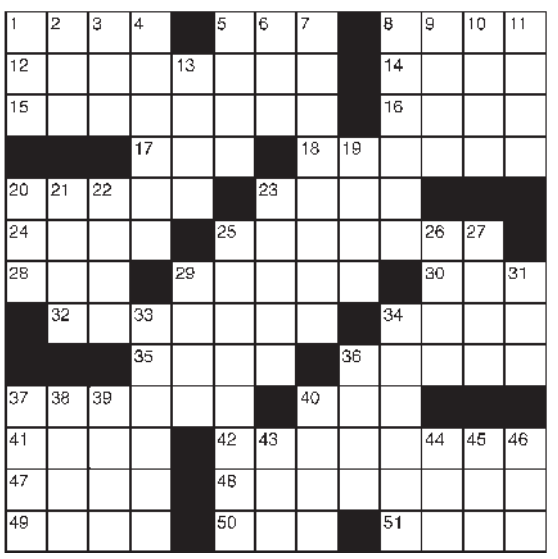
ACROSS
1 Even
5 Apply cream
8 "The Good Earth" heroine
12 "Please go ahead"
14 Fork prong
15 The National Pastime
16 Circus structure
17 Cacophony
18 Scalawags
20 Basilica areas
23 Diving duck
24 Soccer legend
25 Brewing gizmo
28 Greek letter
29 Not — out of place
30 Scull need
32 Kook
34 Ordered
35 Skin breakout
36 Notorious
37 Port city of Poland
40 Former Mideast org.
41 Pealed
42 Pitcher's tactic
47 "American —"
48 Consume too little
49 Lion's pride?
50 Meadow
51 Sciences' partner

DOWN
1 Bar bill
2 "— tree falls ..."
3 UFO crew
4 One of the Ramones
5 Cannon of film
6 MSN rival
7 Reduced-rate postal delivery
8 Canada's capital
9 Actor Schreiber
10 Green Gables girl
11 Tennis barriers
13 Baseball stats
19 Cornhusker's st.
20 iPhone download
21 Mexican money
22 Lost traction
23 Black Panthers leader Bobby
25 Appreciative
26 Rich soil
27 Stow cargo
29 Grade-school basics
31 Flushed
33 Hang loose?
34 Diva Streisand
36 Kismet
37 Bleak
38 Baby's father
39 Unsigned (Abbr.)
40 Fed. food inspector
43 Chemical suffix
44 — Lingus
45 Back muscle, briefly
46 USN officers

Solution time: 26 mins.

R	C	B	■	S	C	O	T	■	R	■	L	L
E	H	A	■	C	O	H	O	■	O	K	I	E
B	A	R	B	A	D	O	S	■	B	E	E	N
■	■	A	I	M	S	■	■	G	U	A	V	A
B	E	B	O	P	■	O	P	U	S	■	■	■
A	L	B	S	■	G	H	E	A	I	J	O	B
C	I	A	■	P	R	I	S	M	■	U	M	A
H	E	S	I	I	A	N	I	■	H	■	N	N
■	■	■	F	A	N	G	■	■	U	C	I	D
P	J	F	F	S	■	■	C	O	M	E	■	■
A	L	A	I	■	=	U	D	G	E	B	A	R
C	E	D	E	■	R	A	V	E	■	A	D	E
S	E	E	R	■	I	R	■	S	■	R	A	F

Last Friday's Answer 03-04



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chaz Bono, 50; Patricia Heaton, 61; Mykelti Williamson, 62; Catherine O'Hara, 65.

Happy Birthday: Focus on what you can do and how best to help others. Patience, understanding and good advice will turn you into the go-to person for friends and family. Moderation coupled with a responsible attitude will ensure you bypass temptation. Aim for greater stability, and be willing to walk away from situations that offer little but demand a lot. Your numbers are 4, 12, 20, 29, 31, 37, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Be receptive, but don't feel you have to follow or give in to someone who isn't authentic or reliable. Pick and choose the people you associate with based on morals and integrity, and make changes that are good for you. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't try to impress someone by taking a risk. Stick to the safe route, no matter what others do. You have plenty to gain by using your intelligence and discipline to get what you want. Learn from experience and flourish. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Concentrate on what you can accomplish. Reach for the stars, but be reasonable, even if someone close to you isn't. Personal improvements can be achieved if you do what's right and you incorporate moderation into whatever changes you make. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Encourage others, and you will get the same in return. Set goals and take the road less traveled if it promotes something you've been longing to do. Exploring, expressing and experiencing will take you on a journey that will change your life. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* If someone asks you to do something that appears to be dangerous or could cause health problems or upset someone you love, know enough to back away. Call the shots instead of following someone who is a poor influence. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Listen and revise what you hear to suit your needs. Put some muscle behind your plans, and make a difference to the outcome and concerns that matter to you. Learn through observation and from those with more experience. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take time out to make personal improvements that will make you feel good and make you more marketable. Networking will help you build connections that can help you advance. Look ahead and let go of any baggage you've been carrying around. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Do your own thing, and be respectful of what others want to do as well. A creative idea can turn into a worthwhile investment that will allow you to build confidence and earn a little extra cash. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Question anyone trying to use emotional tactics or false information to push you in a different direction. A change you want to make should be for the right reason, not because you are being pressured. Love who you are. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Hard work will pay off, but don't neglect to take care of your health and physical well-being. Injury or illness, however insignificant, should not be allowed to turn into something more serious. Don't overreact or make assumptions. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take better care of yourself, your relationships and your personal possessions. Emotions will run high and can cause problems if you let anger take over. Channel your energy into something that will benefit you, not hold you back. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* It's OK to dream, but don't lose sight of what's possible. Know your limitations and how best to make the most with what you've got. Time matters, and preparation and organization will lead to success. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outspoken, innovative and dogged. You are motivated and inspiring.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7			3			4		
				4	7	8	1	
			8		6		5	3
3		4				1	2	
	6			2			4	
	7	1				6		9
8	5		9		4			
	2	3	7	5				
		6			3			4

Difficulty Level ★ 3/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

7	6	2	9	1	3	8	4	5
5	1	8	4	7	2	6	9	3
4	3	9	8	5	6	1	7	2
2	7	5	6	9	1	4	3	8
9	8	3	7	2	4	5	1	6
1	4	6	3	8	5	9	2	7
3	5	1	2	6	9	7	8	4
8	9	4	5	3	7	2	6	1
6	2	7	1	4	8	3	5	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/04

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SHISHITO PEPPERS Solution: 8 letters

R	D	E	F	F	U	T	S	K	R	R	O	A	S	T
E	S	E	E	H	C	W	O	E	E	C	U	A	S	W
D	C	S	R	E	S	O	M	T	H	L	W	O	B	E
N	L	I	K	A	C	M	S	M	O	K	Y	R	F	T
E	I	I	L	I	U	I	Ⓦ	F	N	L	E	E	K	S
L	Z	T	M	S	L	Ⓐ	R	I	E	H	I	N	K	L
S	S	E	O	B	Ⓡ	L	L	R	Y	R	C	V	E	E
E	S	E	S	A	M	E	E	M	E	O	C	T	E	T
I	O	S	I	T	M	Z	E	T	A	I	U	Y	A	I
V	T	E	M	O	I	G	E	T	L	A	T	O	K	B
O	Y	N	N	T	A	E	I	R	S	V	N	G	A	R
H	C	A	E	S	W	N	A	I	C	E	I	U	E	O
C	I	P	U	S	G	G	A	H	E	G	M	R	T	I
N	P	A	S	T	A	N	A	R	M	A	E	T	S	L
A	S	J	L	L	I	R	G	H	C	N	U	R	C	D

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Anchovies, Appetizer, Asian, Batch, Bite, Blister, Bowl, Broil, Char, Cheese, Coating, Cook, Crunch, Firm, Fry, Garlic, Green, Grill, Honey, Japanese, Leeks, Lemon, Mild, Mint, Miso, Olive, Pasta, Raw, Rice, Roast, Salt, Sauce, Sausage, Saut, Sesame, Skillet, Slender, Slice, Smoky, Spicy, Steak, Steam, Stew, Stuffed, Summer, Sweeter, Toss, Vegan, Yogurt, Zest.

Last Friday's Answer: Pleasing

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

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- Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree
- CPR/First Aid Certified
- Knowledge of child development and curriculum
- Must be a member in good standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- Willing to adhere to all school policies and procedures

(1) Maintenance Supervisor

- Minimum two years of general maintenance experience and supervision
- Knowledge of plumbing, electrical, building construction, and general maintenance
- Must be a member in good standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

Send resumes to: **Saipan SDA School Principal**
P.O. Box 501063 Saipan MP 96950
principal@saipansdaschool.org

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 19-01
United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands

Official Court Reporter

Location: Saipan, U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)
Annual Pay: $88,429 to $101,693, depending on professional certification level.
(Inclusive of 13.01% regional COLA allowance.)
OPENING DATE: 03/04/19 • CLOSING DATE: 3/18/19 but will remain open until filled

Position Overview:
The official court reporter attends and records verbatim each session of the court and every other proceeding designated by rule or order of the court; certifies and files original notes with the clerk of the court; files certified transcripts of, or alternatively audio records, all arraignments, pleas, and sentencing proceedings; promptly transcribes the original records at the request of parties who have arranged payment; promptly transcribes the original records at the request of a judge at no charge to the court; files a certified copy of any transcript produced with the clerk of the court; follows Judicial Conference established fee and delivery schedules; maintains and files reports required by the Judicial Conference related to attendance, transcript production, and earnings; and furnishes supplies related to the production of transcripts at his or her own expense. Court reporters must comply with the Court Reporter Management Plan of this District. This is a full-time regular position with full federal employment benefits, paid leave and holidays, health insurance, life insurance and federal retirement benefits.

Minimum Qualifications and Preferred Qualifications:

- Have at least four (4) years of court reporting experience in the freelance field of service, or in other courts, or a combination thereof.
- Be qualified by testing for listing on the Registry of Professional Reporters (RPR) of the
- National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) or passed an equivalent qualifying examination.
- Possession of and skill in the use of computer-aided transcription equipment.
- Applicants with realtime certification are preferred. Realtime reporters must possess all necessary realtime equipment and software.
- Applicants must demonstrate sound ethics and judgment, be able to communicate effectively (orally and in writing) and have skill in using automated systems.

Citizenship Requirement:
Applicants are required to be U.S. citizens or aliens who are authorized to work in the U.S.

Notice to Applicants:
Excepted service appointments are "at will" and may be terminated by either the court or the employee at any time for any reason. Selectees are subject to a background investigation and suitability determination, and updated background investigations every five years. Employees are subject to the Judicial Code of Conduct. Direct deposit of payroll is required.

Application Procedure:
Each applicant is required to submit a Cover Letter, Resume, and an AO-78 application form. AO-78 forms are on the Internet at: http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov or may be picked up at the U.S. District Court. Applications received at the Clerk of Court Office in Saipan by March 18, 2019 at 2:00pm will be given preference.

Deliver signed applications to:
Clerk of Court
United States District Court
for the Northern Mariana Islands
123 Kopa Di Oru St
2nd Floor Horiguchi Bldg
Saipan, MP 96950

Or, email signed applications to:
HR@nmid.uscourts.gov

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WHATZIT Solution: See eye to eye

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ADS

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Phillies armed and dangerous with Harper on roster

PHILADELPHIA—Manager Gabe Kapler is going to have fun running this lineup out 162 times.

With the addition of outfielder Bryce Harper, who agreed to a 13-year, $330 million deal with the Phillies on Thursday, Philadelphia has one of baseball's most dangerous lineups.

Between the combination of free agent acquisitions and trades, general manager Matt Klentak remarkably upgraded at four positions—catcher, shortstop, left and right field—by adding J.T. Realmuto, Jean Segura, Andrew McCutchen and Harper, respectively.

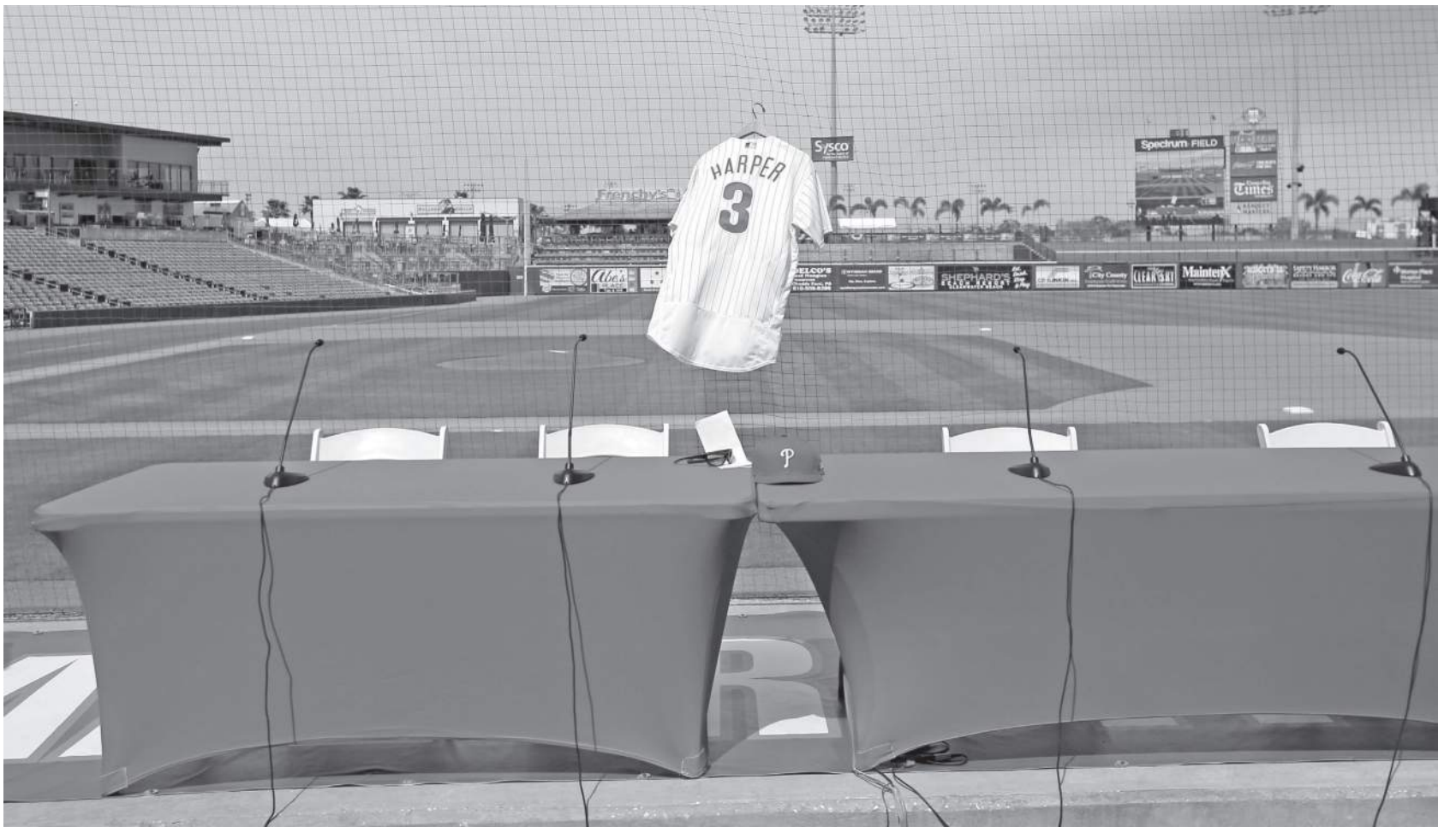
Even before Harper, the Phillies' lineup was formidable.

Harper's left-handed bat is a welcomed addition to what was a right-handed heavy lineup. And he steps into a ballpark he knows all to well after spending the last seven years with the NL East rival Washington Nationals.

At Citizens Bank Park, Harper owns a .268/.365/.564 slash line and hit 14 home runs in 50 career games—the most at any visiting ballpark.

Meanwhile, Harper sounded like a typical Philadelphian talking about a goal every Phillies fan will endorse.

"I want to be on Broad Street on a frickin' boat or bus or whatever it is and hold a (World Series) trophy over my head," the six-time All-Star said Saturday after putting on his new No. 3 jersey.



AP

A jersey for Bryce Harper sits on the stage before Harper is introduced as a Philadelphia Phillies player at a news conference at the Phillies spring training baseball facility, Saturday, March 2, 2019, in Clearwater, Fla. Harper and the Phillies agreed to a $330 million, 13-year contract, the largest deal in baseball history.

The Phillies are counting on Harper to help them win only the third championship in franchise history. Philadelphia gave Harper the largest deal in baseball history. His arrival has fans scurrying to the box office. The team said 180,000 tickets were sold in less than two days after the agreement was reported Thursday afternoon.

"He's a magnetic personality and he plays the game with his heart on his sleeve and Philadelphia loves that," Phillies owner John Middleton said. "They love people who leave a little skin on the grass."

Harper was greeted by the Phillie Phanatic as he walked onto the first base dugout at the team's spring training ballpark. He got applause from team employees gathered for his introductory news conference.

Negotiations took far longer than expected, but Harper and his agent, Scott Boras, insisted an opt-out clause was never a hold up. Boras said Harper was his first client to instruct him not to seek one.

"I wanted to be able to dig my roots somewhere through the ups and downs of the team and the organization," Harper said. "It's going to be tough for our team to win every single year, I understand that. Even through the bumps and bruises, the goods and the bads, I want to be a part of that."

Middleton put pressure on himself early in the free agency process when he told a reporter the Phillies wanted to win so badly they would be "stupid" about money. Before signing Harper, general manager Matt Klentak acquired two-time All-Star shortstop Jean Segura and All-Star catcher J.T. Realmuto in trades and signed 2013 NL MVP Andrew McCutchen and 2011 All-Star reliever David Robertson.

"Does it look like stupid money to you?" Middleton said. "I think Matt has had a pretty good offseason. ... I wanted to signal that I was going to be aggressive. Matt made himself and me look really smart."

Harper chose No. 3 instead of the No. 34 he wore for the Washington Nationals because Hall of Famer Roy Halladay was the last player to wear No. 34 for the Phillies. He said he's enjoyed playing in Philadelphia and spoke to former Phillies outfielder Jayson Werth, who was his teammate in Washington for several seasons.

"You'll always be remembered for winning and what better place to do it than Philly," Harper said.

Harper has a .279 career average with 184 homers and 521 RBIs, including a .268 average with 14 homers, 32 RBIs in 47 games at Citizens Bank Park.

His contract tops the $325 million, 13-year deal outfielder Giancarlo Stanton reached before the 2015 season with the Miami Marlins, who traded him to the New York Yankees in December 2017.

"What he's accomplished in his career at such a young age is truly remarkable," Klentak said of Harper. "We had some ups and downs in this process, but the commitment to reaching a deal for both parties was evident throughout. In almost all of our discussions with Bryce and (Harper's wife) Kayla, the conversation has been focused on family."

Harper is already recruiting perhaps the best player in baseball, Mike Trout, who is set to become a free agent after the 2020 season. Trout, a two-time AL MVP with the Los Angeles Angels, grew up near Philadelphia, attended the Phillies victory parade in 2008 as a 17-year-old and has season tickets for the Eagles.

"I'm making $26 (million) a year. That's going to be able to bring some other guys in as well to build up this organization," Harper said. "There's another guy in about two years that comes off the books. We'll see what happens with that."

Harper gets a $20 million signing bonus in equal installments, the first within 90 days of the deal's approval by the commissioner's office and the second this Nov. 1. He receives a $10 million salary this year, $26 million in each of the following nine seasons and $22 million in each of the last three years. None of the money is deferred, and he gets a full no-trade provision.

His bonus provisions are $50,000 each for All-Star, Gold Glove, Silver Slugger or League Championship Series MVP; $100,000 for World Series MVP; $500,000 for league MVP, $50,000 for second and $25,000 for third.

After Harper signing, Trout payday up next

TEMPE, Ariz.—It took 117 days for Bryce Harper to score a contract once he embarked on free agency, a torturous process for player, fans and industry until Harper finally agreed to a 13-year, $330 million contract on Thursday.

Mike Trout has some 615 days before he can become a free agent. Yet, those days may zoom by far quicker than he or Los Angeles Angels fans could imagine.

Trout contacted Harper on Thursday and congratulated him on his deal, a record-setting pact that almost immediately prompted baseball fans to ask: If Harper got nearly a third of a billion dollars from the Philadelphia Phillies, what might Trout, the consensus greatest player in the game, receive should he hit the market after the 2020 season?

"'I haven't really thought about it," Trout said Friday morning before a Cactus League game against the Kansas City Royals. "I'm happy, I'm happy with what they got, they obviously wanted that, and we'll go from there."

It's hard to imagine Trout not lending that concept some thought, but let's indulge him, at least momentarily.

It seemed Harper and Trout might always be joined at the hip when, as 19- and 20-year-olds, they dominated the National and American leagues, respectively, captured Rookie of the Year honors and earned MVP awards by the time they were 22.

Yet the two players, friendly but far from BFF-close, diverged both in performance and pay: Trout, as he developed into the game's consensus best player and slam-dunk Hall of Famer, chose security in the form of a six-year, $144 million extension.

Harper did win his MVP, but his year-to-year production has been more uneven. Yet, he gambled on himself and came up big, experiencing free agency at 26. He's guaranteed $378 million in gross career earnings.

Through age 29, he'll be in an almost dead heat with Trout: $152 million, compared to Trout's $146.5 million.

It's Trout's next payday that an entire industry awaits.

The Angels desperately want to retain him, and will spend the next two seasons proactively trying to make him an Angel for life. But Trout sacrificed a bit with his original extension and, while the industry has not been kind to older players in recent off-seasons, will command something near a record-setting nine-figure contract after the 2020 season.

He's also been more engaged in union meetings as his career continues, according to people familiar with him, and may want to send the contractual stakes even higher for his fellow players.

And he indicated Friday that he does not expect to engage in talks with the Angels before the season starts.

Cross another 30 days off that countdown.

"Spring training, you try to get ready for a season," he says. "You don't want to worry about anything else. That's the mindset right now, and we'll go from there."

The Angels will simultaneously revel in Trout's greatness—he's won two MVP awards, finished twice four times and has produced a staggering 64 Wins Above Replacement by age 27.

"I don't see how you can't like Mike Trout. Certainly the fans love him. They should. Mike Trout is the best player in the game and goes about his business the right way and is admired and honored for it and should be," Angels manager Brad Ausmus

They know that in Philadelphia, too. The Phillies, after committing massive monies but only $25.38 million per season for Harper, will have cash for Trout, too.

So will 28 other teams, but Trout knows the club he rooted for as a kid will be a constant topic of conversation.

Suns frustrate LeBron, hand Lakers costly loss

PHOENIX (AP)—The Phoenix Suns took a unique approach to guarding LeBron James, putting 7-foot-1 center Deandre Ayton on him.

James got his numbers, but the Suns frustrated the Lakers' star and were able to push back when he tried to lead a late charge.

Ayton had 26 points, 10 rebounds and primary defensive duties against James, helping the Suns hold off the Los Angeles Lakers 118-109 Saturday night.

"That was a fun game," Ayton said. "I'm going to sleep well tonight."

Phoenix lost the first three games this season against Los Angeles by double digits, but had the Lakers a bit discombobulated through three quarters in the season series finale.

The Suns' defense on James, led by Ayton, helped.

The four-time league MVP was frustrated at times with Phoenix's defense and his team's inability to hang with the NBA's worst team.

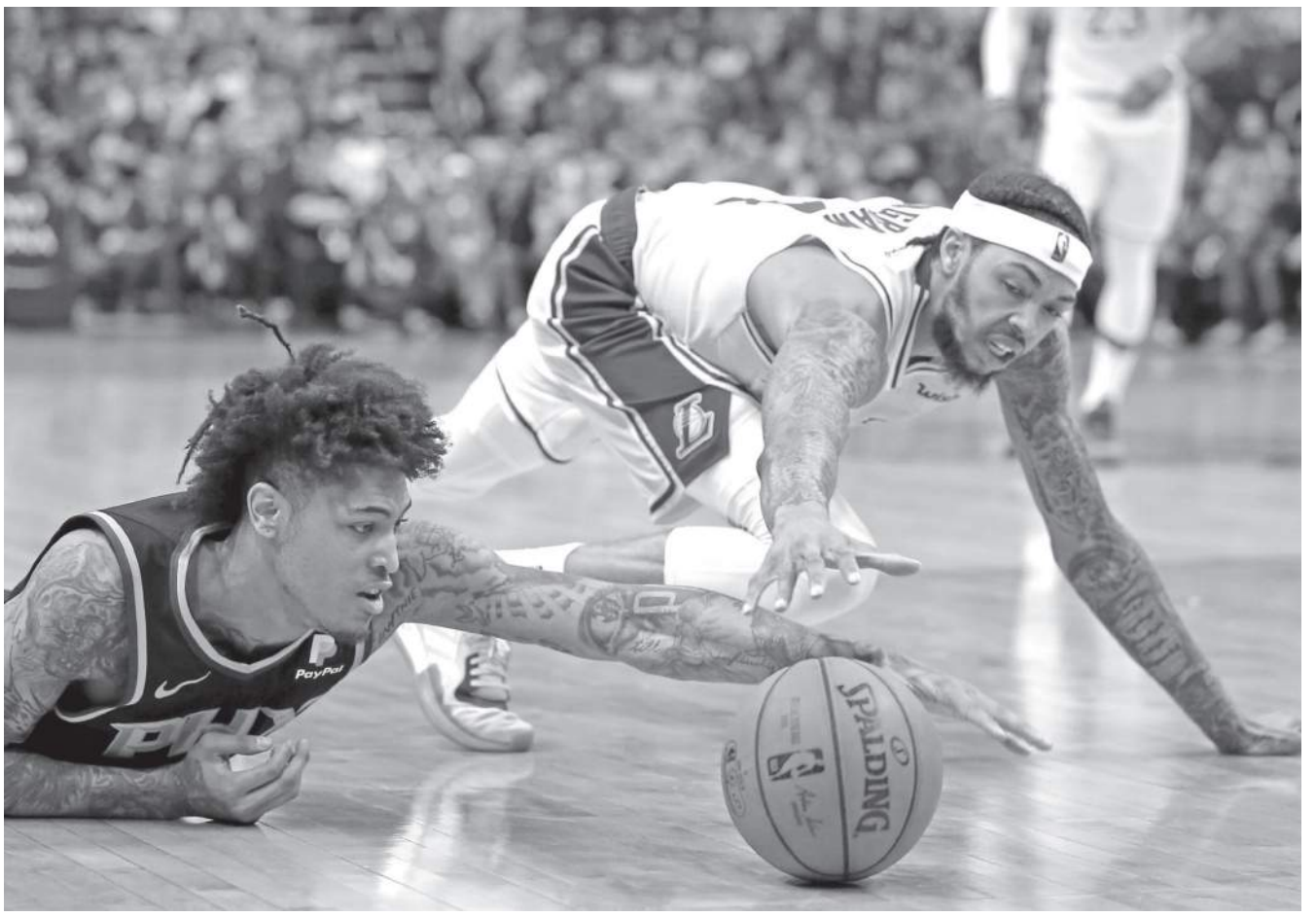
But, as he has so many times, James tried to lead the Lakers back.

With Los Angeles trailing by 14 with 6:06 left, James scored on a three-point play, hit a 3-pointer and kicked out to Brandon Ingram for a corner 3 on the break. He followed with a dunk off a baseline drive to get the Lakers within 112-109.

Los Angeles got no closer, losing a game it couldn't afford to lose while fighting for a playoff spot.

"We needed this game for obvious reasons," said James, who had 27 points, 16 assists and nine rebounds. "It is just unfortunate with the opportunities we've had that we haven't been able to seize the opportunity."

The Suns appeared as if they would wilt down the stretch, as they had done so many times.



AP

Phoenix Suns forward Kelly Oubre Jr., left, dives for a loose ball in front of Los Angeles Lakers forward Brandon Ingram during the first half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, March 2, 2019, in Phoenix.

Pau Gasol to sign with Bucks after Spurs buyout

LOS ANGELES—The Milwaukee Bucks are on the verge of making a major splash on the buyout market.

Veteran center Pau Gasol reached a contract buyout with the San Antonio Spurs on Friday, allowing him to sign with another team and retain his playoff eligibility.

The 38-year-old will need to clear waivers, but the plan is for the 7-footer to join the Bucks when he does, a source confirmed to the Journal Sentinel.

The Bucks also will need to clear a roster spot. They signed point guard Isaiah Canaan to a 10-day contract Monday to help add some depth, with three guards—George Hill, Sterling Brown and Donte DiVincenzo—out due to injuries. Canaan is the most likely player to be cut to make room for Gasol.

Gasol, a six-time all-star and two-time NBA champion, has played in just 27 games for the Spurs this season. He missed almost all of November and December due to a stress fracture in his left foot.

When he has played this season, Gasol has had a minor role, averaging a career-low 12.2 minutes per game while younger frontcourt players such as Davis Bertans and Jakob Poeltl have been bigger contributors off the bench. Gasol's 4.2 points and 4.7 rebounds per game are the lowest of his 18-year career.

Grizzlies 111, Mavericks 81

In Dallas, Jonas Valanciunas had 20 points and 10 rebounds, and Joakim Noah scored 12 points to lead the Memphis Grizzlies to a victory over the Mavericks.

Memphis had its largest margin of victory this season in winning for the second time in seven games. Dallas suffered its most lopsided loss of the season. The Mavericks have won one of their last seven games.

Spurs 116, Thunder 102

In San Antonio, LaMarcus Aldridge had 27 points and 10 rebounds and the San Antonio Spurs led for all but 30 seconds in defeating Oklahoma City, handing the Thunder their fourth straight loss.

Rudy Gay added 22 points and DeMar DeRozan had 18 points, seven assists and six rebounds and as San Antonio won its second straight at home after going 1-7 on their annual Rodeo Road Trip.

Oklahoma City, which has lost five of six, remains third in the Western Conference but has the same record as Portland at 38-24.

San Antonio moved into seventh in the West past the Los Angeles Clippers, who have an identical 35-29 record.

Heat 117, Nets 88

In Miami, Kelly Olynyk scored 25 points, Derrick Jones Jr. added 18 off the bench and the Miami Heat never trailed on the way to easily topping the Brooklyn Nets.

Rodney McGruder scored 17, Justise Winslow added 13 points and Josh Richardson added 12 for the Heat. Bam Adebayo grabbed 16 rebounds for Miami—giving him three more than the entire Brooklyn starting lineup had combined.

The Heat were without Goran Dragic (left calf strain) and Hassan Whiteside (left hip strain). James Johnson, who has been out with a sprained shoulder, was in uniform but did not play.

Joe Harris scored 15 and Rodions Kurucs scored 11 for Brooklyn, which has dropped 10 of its last 15 games. D'Angelo Russell and Spencer Dinwiddie each scored 10 for the Nets.

Warriors 120, 76ers 117

In Philadelphia, Stephen Curry shook off foul trouble to score 28 points and spark the Golden State Warriors down the stretch of a 120-117 win over the Philadelphia 76ers.

Curry seemed invisible in long stretches, especially in the third when he played just 3:45 of the quarter and watched the 76ers keep competitive in his absence.

With Curry back in the lineup in the fourth, the Warriors squashed Philly's upset bid in front of a sellout crowd that included plenty of Philadelphia Eagles and the first appearances of Philadelphia Phillies Bryce Harper jerseys. Curry buried a 3-pointer for a 111-109 lead, the Sixers tied it, then Curry scored the next six points over the final 2:35 of the game to do what he does best — carry the Warriors in the clutch.

Kevin Durant scored 34 points and DeMarcus Cousins had 25 for the Warriors.

Magic 117, Pacers 112

In Indianapolis, Nikola Vucevic scored 27 points, Terrence Ross added 23 and surging Orlando continued its push for its first playoff berth since 2012.

Evan Fournier finished with 19 points, eight assists and five rebounds for Orlando, which shot 51 percent from the field. The Magic are 10-3 in their last 13 games and improved to 30-34, a half-game ahead of Charlotte for eighth place in the Eastern Conference.

Bojan Bogadnovic scored 25 points and Darren Collison finished with 23 points and 10 assists for the Pacers, who shot 55 percent.

It was Orlando's first win at Bankers Life Fieldhouse since March 31, 2016.

Pistons 129, Cavaliers 93

In Cleveland, Luke Kennard scored 26 points, Reggie Jackson added 24 and Detroit took it to a depleted Cleveland team, building a 33-point lead in the first half.

The Pistons, who are fighting for a playoff spot in the Eastern Conference, scored 42 in the first quarter while taking a 71-38 halftime lead.

Andre Drummond had 13 points and 10 rebounds and got some extra rest for the Pistons.

Rookie Collin Sexton scored 14 for the Cavs.

Singh eyes history at Honda Classic

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Vijay Singh's last PGA Tour victory in 2008. His only win at The Honda Classic was in 1999, on a course that he couldn't remember. And he arrived at PGA National a few days ago wondering if his game is still good enough for him to be competitive with the younger generation.

So far, he's got to like what he's seeing.

And he'll have a shot Sunday at making history.

Singh—who turned 56 on Feb. 22—has a chance to become the oldest winner ever on the PGA Tour. His round of 5-under 65 on Saturday put him at 6 under for the week, one shot behind leader Wyndham Clark.

They'll be in the final pairing Sunday. Singh has been a pro longer than the 25-year-old Clark has been alive.

"It would be great," Singh said when asked what a win would mean at his age. "I've worked pretty hard. I'm physically quite capable of doing it. Mentally, I'm going to go out there and see how my mind works. If I just don't let anything interfere, I think I can do it."

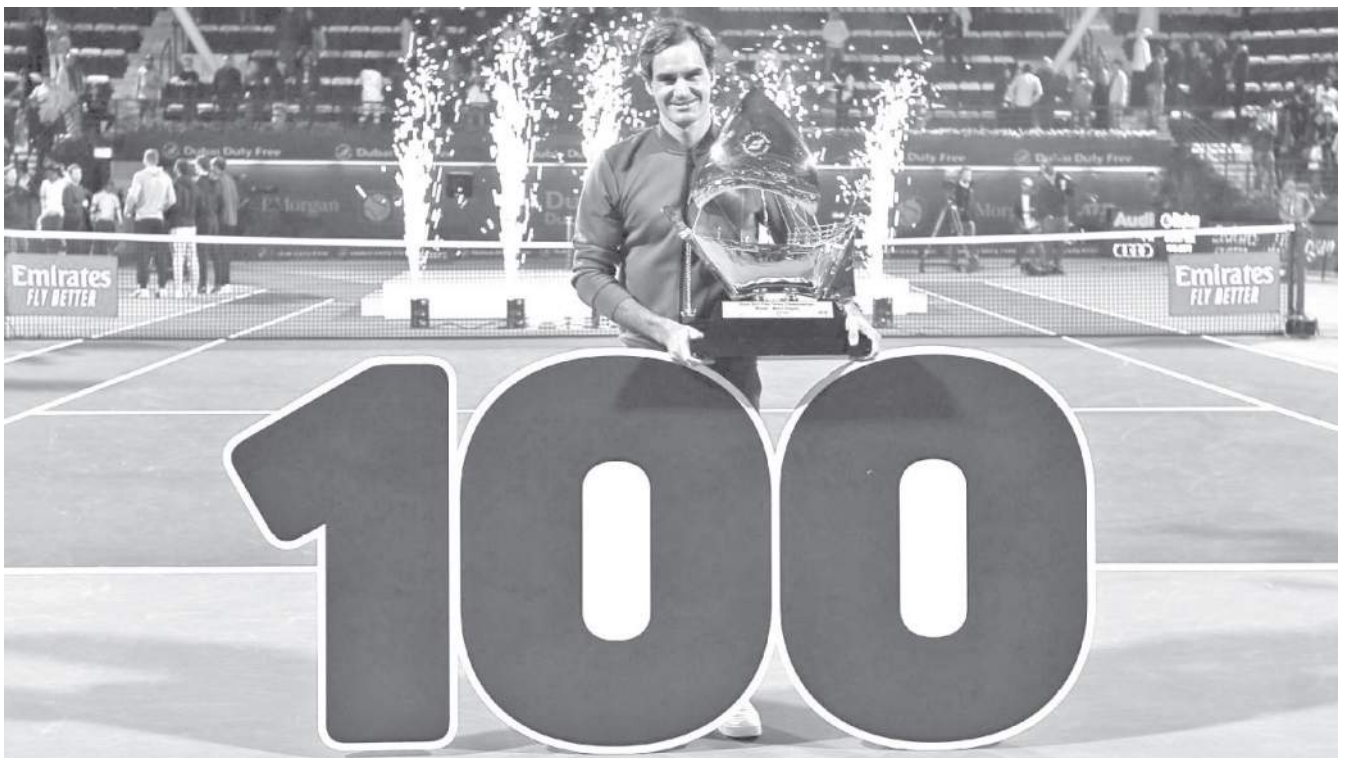
There have been seven players to win on the PGA Tour after their 50th birthday, the oldest Sam Snead at 52 years, 10 months, 8 days in the 1965 Greater Greensboro Open. Singh will be eight days removed from his 56th birthday Sunday.

"He's been one of the game's best," said Rickie Fowler, who was alone in fifth at 5 under following his round of 66. "He's a ball-striker. He's not as long as he used to be, but on this golf course you don't necessarily have to be long. It's about getting the ball in the fairway and hitting your lines and hitting numbers. You don't necessarily have to go out and do anything special."

Singh, Keith Mitchell (70) and Kyeong-Hoon Lee (68) are all one shot off Clark's lead. Clark started in sizzling fashion, opening with five birdies in his first seven holes before giving a bit back as the wind started to pick up at PGA National.

Forecasters say the breezes will only get stronger from here, and that means Sunday could be wild. There were 28 players within five shots of the lead. Brooks Koepka (70), first-round leader Jhonattan Vegas (69) and Michael Thompson (66) were 4 under, and Sergio Garcia shot 70 for the second straight day to reach 3 under.

Federer makes history in Dubai



AP
Roger Federer of Switzerland holds his trophy after winning the final match at the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championship against Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Saturday, March 2, 2019.

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Add a century of career titles to Roger Federer's staggering list of tennis achievements.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion became the second male player to win 100 tour-level tournaments in the professional era when he beat Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 6-4 in the final of the Dubai Championships on Saturday.

Jimmy Connors is the other player to reach the milestone, and the American ended his career at 109 titles.

"Welcome to the 'Triple Digit' tournament victory club," Connors said in a Twitter post to Federer, "I've been a bit lonely—glad to have the company!!!"

Federer tweeted back, "Happy to join."

By beating a player nearly half his age, Federer, 37, continued his record of winning at least one title every season since his first in 2001 in Milan. Eight of his victories have come in Dubai.

"It's been a long, wonderful journey. I have loved every minute," Federer said. "It's been tough but the sacrifice has been very, very worthwhile and we'll see how much more I've got left in the tank.

"Reaching 100 is an absolute dream come true for me."

As well as his record haul of Grand Slam titles, which includes a record eight wins at Wimbledon, Federer has won a record six ATP Finals and topped the rankings for a record 310 weeks—including 237 in a row.

In a battle of the generations, Federer avenged his loss to the 20-year-old Tsitsipas, a rising star from Greece, in the last 16 of the Australian Open in January.

Federer broke serve in the first game and took the set on his fourth set point.

The second set was more even, but Tsitsipas made the first big mistake in dumping an easy shot into the net to lose serve for a 5-4 deficit. His opponent then held serve to love to join Connors in the century club.

"I'm so happy I'm still playing," Federer said. "It all started as a junior world champion. It's been great. I wouldn't do it any differently."

Meanwhile, Tommy Haas says he would never dream of speaking for his friend Federer, but the BNP Paribas Open tournament director also isn't coy when he says that this could be the Grand Slam champion's final year on the ATP World Tour.

And as the top executive at the Indian Wells tournament, Haas wants fans attending the event to know that they should appreciate what may be one last chance to see the 37-year-old legend play tennis in the California desert. After all, there are no guarantees that Federer will play beyond this year.

"We hope that he's going to be back for many, many years," Haas told The Desert Sun, "but I keep reminding everybody that this might be, who knows, his last year. I don't want to be the guy that spoils it, but we've got to cherish these moments."

Haas, a former player whose close friendship with Federer is well known, isn't necessarily speaking with insider knowledge. Federer, who is currently ranked seventh in the world, spoke of the uncertainty of playing beyond this year at the Australian Open in January. Though he reiterated that he has no plans to retire just yet, he also acknowledged that this season could indeed be it for him.

With Federer adding the clay court season back into his schedule this year, perhaps for one final run, it's a sobering reality that this could be serious.

"We'll see if there's going to be one more season or not," Federer said in an interview with Swish television SRF in December. "I am in discussion with my team and, later in the year, we will see if there will be one more season or not."

Federer then added in January that he still has a desire to play the game as long as he feels good, physically, and he can remain competitive.

That hasn't been a problem as he's aged. Last year, at age 37, Federer finished the season ranked third in the world, not long after he became the oldest player to hold the top spot in the 45-year history of the ATP rankings. He did so after winning Stuttgart for his 98th career singles title in June, just two months shy of his birthday.

Also last year, his start to the season was the best of his famed career. He won his first 17 matches of the year while winning singles titles in Melbourne and Rotterdam, before finally losing his first match, to Juan Martin del Potro in the Indian Wells final. Federer should have extended the win streak to 18 matches heading into Miami, but he failed to put Del Potro away despite three match-point opportunities.

Amid the uncertainty about when his career will eventually conclude, one thing that Federer said that he won't do is announce a farewell season.

So, it sounds as though we likely won't know if this is his last time playing at Indian Wells until this year's tournament is long over. If this really is it, it's worth looking back at what he's done here over the years.

HOPWOOD

From Page 28

title game, while Hopwood 3 had to go though the loser's bracket and eliminate Tinian to earn the last finals ticket.

Meanwhile, with the middle school volleyball tournament done, PSS will hold the playoffs for the co-ed elementary 4x4 and the high school 3x3 basketball competitions this Saturday.

The elementary 4x4 had its pool play last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium with the 13 teams spread out in three pools. William S. Reyes Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary, and Garapan fielded three teams each, while San Vicente and Kagman entered two apiece.

The high school 3x3 had its pool play late last month at the Marianas High School Gymnasium with Kagman 1 and MHS 2 topping their respective groups in the boys division and MHS 1 doing the same in the girls field. Saipan Southern High School and Da'Ok also saw action in the pool play, while Tinian and Rota are invited to join this weekend's double-elimination playoffs.

BRAVES

From Page 28

triots-Angels dominated the Niners in six innings.

After neither team scored in the first inning, the Patriots-Angels stormed past the Niners in the second to open a 7-0 advantage. The Patriots-Angels then showed that their performance in the second inning was no fluke, as they duplicated their seven-run output in the third and fourth inning for the blowout.

Tiah Camacho, Cassandra Camacho, Franzie Elleisar, and Sylvina Simram scored three runs apiece for the Patriots-Angels. Richelle Ramon, Kiana Aldan, Mariko Laniyo, and Alannah Sablan added two runs each, while Chanel Espinosa chipped in one.

The victorious Patriot-Angels are undefeated in three games, while the Niners remain winless also after three matches.

Balas 24, Ayuyus 13

Balas needed only four innings to whip the Ayuyus.

Balas was just on top by three after the first inning, 5-2, when it picked up its pace in the last three to put the game away for good.

Jaime Pangelinan and Caitlyn Kaipat made four runs each to lead Balas.

With the win and its 2-1 record, Balas kept the No. 2 spot in the standing, while the Ayuyus are in third place with its 1-2 slate.

SEAN

From Page 28

The 17 teams will be divided into four pools with the Top 2 finishers in each group advancing to the playoffs of the qualifier that will run until March 10.

Before being selected on the Pacific Oceania Junior Davis Cup Team, Lee was invited to train at the Oceania Tennis Federation regional facility in Fiji last year and also played in a couple of Juniors ITF world ranking events. Sean is the brother of Carol Lee, who earlier last month played for the Pacific Oceania Fed Cup Team and also suited up for the junior squad of the region.

This year's pre-qualifying event for Fed Cup will also be played in Sri Landa with Samoa's Eleanor Schuster, Fiji's Saoirse Breen, and the Solomon Islands' Zorika Morgan representing Pacific Oceania. Roxanne Clarke is the team captain and her squad is among the 16 groups eyeing slots to the finals. Singapore, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Iran, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Oman, Philippines, Qatar, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Vietnam are the other participating countries.

OVER

From Page 27

Bailey Spaeth, Josh Joson, and Archie Velasco; girls 14 to 19's Nathanette Blas, Thana Cabrera, and Anika Snyder; men's 20 to 29's Rufino Aquino, Shuji Kuroda, and Carl Tabuco; women's 20 to 29's Sarah Vandergan, Megan West, and Taylor Nowicki; men's 30 to 39's, J.P. Nogis, Travis Spaeth; and Karis Oris; women's 30 to 39's Mylene Palacios, Zyra Ganacias, and Christina Foo; men's 40 to 49's Kosuke Sato, Raymund Tolentino, and Elmer Delgado; women's 40 to 49's Ayano Braxton, Kimiko McKagan, and Marilou Carlos; men's 50 to 59's Ruben Tenorio, Andrew Estepa, and Edgardo Casing; women's 50 to 59's Sakiko Eda, Lydia Tan, ad Marie Babauta; men's over 60's Steven Pixley, Ponce Corotan, and Chang Wan Jang; and women's over 60's Juanito Fajardo, Marcia Schultz, and Editha Agustin.

Meanwhile, Triple J Saipan marketing manager Maria Valentina Haberman thanked all the supporters and volunteers of the event.

"We are super stoked with all the support we got from the runners/walkers and of course our major sponsor, TanHoldings/Tan Siu Lin Foundation. We also got tremendous support from our volunteers, the Parks and Recreation Division, the Saipan Mayor's Office, Department of Public Safety, and BECQ. We're lucky that the entire community came together to make this cause possible," said Haberman, adding that 100 percent of the proceeds from the event will be donated to Make-A-Wish Foundation Guam & CNMI and the Commonwealth Cancer Association. "Even the weather cooperated today, so we're very thankful for the generosity of this island."

Make-A-Wish Foundation Guam & CNMI official Kanae Quinn and CCA program manager Juan L. Babauta had the same message of thanks to Triple J family.

"Our organization operates through donations. We don't have government funding, so to have a generous company, like Triple J, is such a great help to us. Last night (Sunday), we had a wish from a Saipan resident granted and we could not do that without the assistance from our sponsors," Quinn said.

"Year in and year out, Triple J is there to support CCA and we can't thank Mr. Jones (Robert) and his family enough for all their help," Babauta said.

Over 1,200 complete Triple J 5K

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

More than 1,200 runners/walkers finished last Saturday's Triple J 5K Bubble Color Run/Walk.

"We had a huge turnout. It was so awesome to see the community come out and support this event," Triple J vice president for marketing and public relations Kris Lujan said.

The run/walk started and ended at the Garapan Fishing Base with a turnaround just past the Quartermasters Road. Runners/walkers were greeted with colored powder at designated stops along Beach Road. They then "showered" at the bubble machine right after they crossed the finish line with kids and adults alike having fun with the special feature of the event.

"The event brought family together. You can see from their faces, especially the children, that they are enjoying and having fun. We started this color run in Guam five years ago and then last year, we thought of bringing it to Saipan and added the bubble machine as an attraction. We are very glad that people on Saipan love the event," Lujan added.

Joseph Toth and Tania Tan led the finishers of the run with the former taking first place overall in the men's after clocking in at 18:39 and the latter winning the women's field with a time of 21:29.

Other winners (Top 3 in various age groups) were boys U13's Isaiah Aleksenko, Guampil Son and Dev Bachani; girls U13's Kaitlyn and Julie Anne Chavez and Kaya Braxton; boys 14 to 19's

See OVER on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A group of friends jogs along Beach Road during last Saturday's Triple J 5K Bubble Color Run/Walk.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tania, left, and Jerry Tan, right, gesture as they head to the finish line.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Friends celebrate their finish at the bubble machine area.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Two kids share a good laugh while playing with the bubbles.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Emma Lee plays with the bubbles after joining the race with her dad James.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A father and son enjoy their time at the bubble machine.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Top 3 placers in the girls U13 age group are joined in the photo by Triple J senior vice president Jay Jones, left, chairman and CEO Robert Jones, fourth left, and the latter's wife, Margaret.

Phillies armed and dangerous with Harper on roster

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Suns frustrate LeBron, hand Lakers costly loss

PAGE 25

Sean to play in Junior Davis Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Another CNMI player has been selected to suit up for the Pacific Oceania Junior Davis Cup Team.

Sean Lee was named to the elite squad and is now in Colombo, Sri Lanka to play in the Asia/Oceania Pre-Qualifying Event, starting today. Lee will be teaming up with Vanuatu's Clement Mainguy and Tahiti's Manovai Elie, while Vanuatu's Cyril Jacobe will be the group's captain.

With Lee's selection, the Commonwealth has a representative on the Pacific Oceania Davis Cup Team for the second straight year. Last year, Robbie Schorr and Ken Song donned the colors of the regional squad, which was incidentally captained by CNMI head coach Jeff Race. The CNMI-led team made it all the way to the finals (defeated Lebanon, Bangladesh, Kuwait, and Vietnam before losing to Pakistan) to earn a slot in the Asia/Oceania Qualifying Finals played in Kuching, Malaysia, in April last year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's Sean Lee, seen here returning the ball to Fiji's Abbas Jiwanji during the boys U16 singles game in the Vanuatu Junior Regional Championship 2018 at the Korman Tennis Centre in Port Vila, is in Sri Lanka for the Junior Davis Cup qualifier.

This year, Lee and company will be vying for the finals slots (two) against Singapore, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Vietnam, and the host country.

See SEAN on Page 26

Hopwood sweeps volleyball titles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hopwood Middle School ruled the Public School System Interscholastic Volleyball Tournament after clinching a pair of championships last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Hopwood 3 secured the boys division crown after beating Dandan Middle School 2 in the finals, while Hopwood 1 prevailed over Hopwood 3 in the girls title showdown.

Hopwood 3 lived up to expectations, as after topping the pool play of the boys division competition last month, it went undefeated in the double-elimination playoffs to lord it over in the six-team field. Hopwood 3 first downed Dandan 1 and then defeated Dandan 2 in the winner's bracket semis to notch the first finals berth.

Dandan 2 marched into the semis after edging Tinian, which was then eliminated from the tournament after bowing to Dandan 3.

The win over Tinian allowed Dandan 3 to earn a second crack at Dandan 1 after the latter prevailed in their first meeting. Dandan 3 then got back at Dandan 1 to challenge Dandan 2 in a battle for the second finals berth and the right to face Hopwood 3 in the finals.

In the girls division, Hopwood 1 and 3, which were the Top 2 finishers in the pool play, moved a win away from advancing to the finals after outclassing Tinian and Hopwood 2, respectively, at the start of the double-elimination contest.

Tinian and Hopwood 2, earlier, won their first game with the former topping Dandan 2 and the latter outlasting Dandan 1, to march into the second round. Then in the semis, Hopwood 1 and 3 collided with the former winning to barge into the

See HOPWOOD on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Hopwood 3 player tips the ball back to Dandan 1 during their game in the Public School System Interscholastic Volleyball Tournament last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Braves shut out Ayuyus

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
pamintuanroby@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Natibu Braves crushed the Ayuyus, 16-0, as action at the Natibu Sports Association Girls Fast-pitch and Boys Slow-pitch Softball League resumed last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The Braves and Ayuyus played in the first game of the league, which canceled its Feb. 23 matches due to Super Typhoon Wutip, with the former finishing off their foes after only four innings, winning via the 10-run mercy rule.

The Braves exploded for seven runs in the third inning, and they never relinquished the driver's seat after that, wrapping up the match after making five runs in the fourth inning.

Before the Ayuyus were forced to wave the white flag, the game was within their reach, as the Braves led by only four after the first two innings. However, the Braves pulled away in the last two innings for the early win.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
The Braves' Awang Tudela torques for a swing during their game against the Ayuyus in the Natibu Sports Association Girls Fast-pitch and Boys Slow-pitch Softball League last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Henry Moses blasted two home runs in the pivotal innings, while Awang Tudela, Bing Nakamura, and Miguel Leveque had one homer apiece for the Braves. J.J. Sablan, Boss Camacho both crossed home plate twice, while Kyle Kapileo reached once.

With the impressive shutout win, the Braves improved to a 2-1 record, while the Ayuyus stumbled to a 1-2 card.

Blue Jays 13, Falcons 7

The Blue Jays almost doubled-up on the Falcons, winning the other boys game after seven innings.

After facing a 6-7 deficit at the bottom of the fourth inning, the Blue Jays caught fire in the fifth and scored six runs to seize a 12-7 lead .

J.P. Celis, James Salalila, Donavan Mendiola, Henry Fleming, Jordan Babauta, and Cody Foreman scored in the crucial fifth inning for the Blue Jays. Celis finished the game with two home runs.

The Blue Jays are now knotted up with the Braves at first place, while the Falcons fell to a 1-2 card.

FAST-PITCH
Patriots-Angels 21, Niners 3

In the girls fast-pitch division's curtain-raiser, the Pa-

See BRAVES on Page 26